

**SPECIAL
PREVIEW**

LEAGUE CUP FINAL

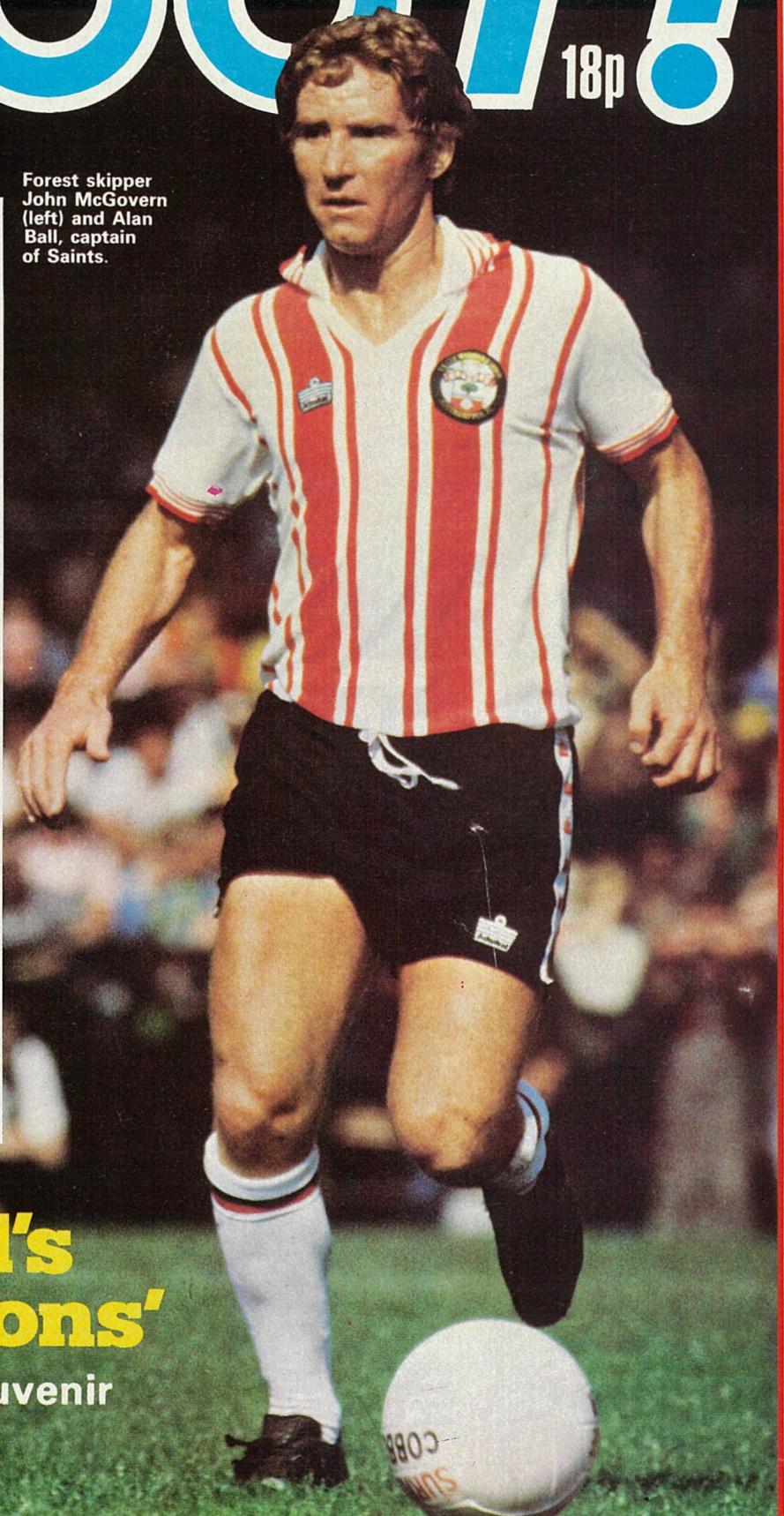
Nottingham Forest v. Southampton

SHOOT!

18p

24th MARCH, 1979

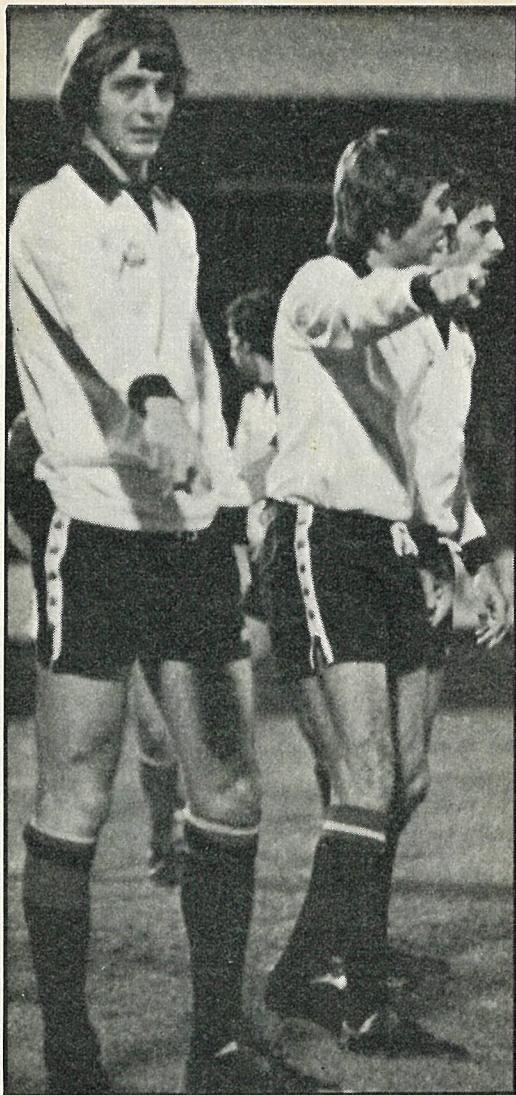
Forest skipper
John McGovern
(left) and Alan
Ball, captain
of Saints.



Old Trafford's 'United Nations'

— Double-page colour souvenir

Australia — 40c; New Zealand — 40c; South Africa — 40c; Malaysia — \$1.30; Italy — L.600; Denmark — Kr.5.85; Canada — 55c.



Former team-mates at Leeds - now rival Fourth Division managers

ALLAN CLARKE -Championship Chaser

BARNSLEY player-manager Allan Clarke (left) won't be happy with simply steering his team into the Third Division at the first attempt . . . he wants to go up as Fourth Division Champions!

"That's right," he says. "I suppose I'm a bit greedy really, but it's the only way to approach professional football these days."

The former Leeds and England striker, who recently gained his first Bell's Whisky Divisional Manager of the Month award, insists his Barnsley side is the best in the Fourth.

But that enviable asset brings its own problems.

"Every game is like a Cup Final, because the opposition pulls out something extra to try to beat us," says the super-fit 32-year-old.

"But I've learned to live with pressure. At Leeds, under Don Revie, we were often going for three trophies. It was like living in the Sahara Desert with a fur coat on. A red hot atmosphere.

"At Barnsley we are battling on just one front . . . the League. I'm sure my lads have the character to take the rest of the season in their stride."

BILLY BREMNER — Dossier on his own men

Meanwhile, at Doncaster, Allan's former Leeds team-mate and skipper Billy Bremner (right) is also sampling his first managerial appointment

It's a season too early to talk about Doncaster as promotion candidates, but already Billy has

made an impression at Belle Vue.

But for the moment he is content on building a side capable of going up and like Clarke has obviously been influenced by his former boss, Don Revie, even to the extent of preparing dossiers on his own players!

After his side crashed 7-1 at Bournemouth recently, "there was no discipline," complained a furious Bremner — he spent the following day compiling a detailed survey of individual performances in his squad.

Then he went through it in detail. "By talking generally, you can often confuse players," he said.

Allan and Billy have lived with success for too long to be satisfied with second best . . . which is good news for Barnsley and Doncaster Rovers.



ANGLO/ITALIAN CUP

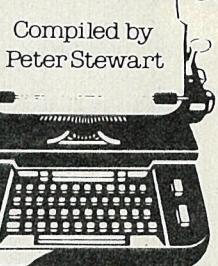
NORTHERN Premier League Matlock Town have launched an appeal for £4,000 to meet the expense of a six day trip to Italy in the first stage of the Anglo-Italian semi-professional tournament, and, hopefully, a second flight out for the Final.

"We are hoping the response will be just as enthusiastic as when we appealed for £2,000 to meet the cost of our trip to Wembley in the F.A. Trophy four years ago," said club secretary Keith Brown.

Other English clubs competing in the tournament which kicked-off this Wednesday 14th March, are Sutton United (Berger Isthmian League), and Southern Leaguers Barnet and Nuneaton Borough.

The Final will be in Italy on Wednesday 25th April.

NEWS



DESK

SUNDAY SOCCER?

WEST London fans are being quizzed about the possibility of Sunday soccer. The three big clubs in the area — Chelsea, Queens Park Rangers and Fulham — are worried that as two of them are always at home together (Fulham, Q.P.R.) on Saturdays attendances could suffer even more.

A circular is going round and local supporters are being asked for their opinions on Sunday football or even Friday night games to ensure all three clubs have West London "to themselves" on match days.

The big problem with changing the traditional soccer day is the Football League's contract with the Pools companies.



No apologies

BIG Jack Charlton (left) is still finding it necessary to explain the comments he made about Ray Clemence's goalkeeping during ITV's coverage of the England v. Northern Ireland game at Wembley.

"If I have upset anybody, they will have to learn to take it," says Sheffield Wednesday's manager with typical bluntness.

"I have no apologies to make to anybody. And if I have caused a bit of controversy, I certainly wasn't aiming for it."

"All I said was Ray Clemence looked a bit uneasy in the England game. I never made any reference as to who was the best keeper. I know Ray very well and I'm a big fan of his."

MALCOLM Allison has come back into the First Division urging a better deal for under pressure managers and coaches.

The Manchester City coach claims: "Managers and coaches should be put out to grass every so often for a six month period. Nobody knows what a demanding job it is in top flight football now, and I think they should send coaches and managers away for a period now and again to rejuvenate them. If this had been done in the past it would have saved several managers from having major break downs."

FORMER Newport County midfield player Len Hill has joined Minehead, the Southern League Club.

Hill is a talented all-round sportsman. He is also a former Glamorgan County cricketer.

Offer from America

JUST hours before Shrewsbury Town were due to meet Aldershot in the Fifth Round of the F.A. Cup, player-manager Graham Turner learned that he is to lose the services of his experienced midfield colleague, Sammy Chapman.

Chapman, who at 33 has played a key role in Town's success this term, is expected to fly to America this month to join Tulsa Roughnecks.

He was signed from Notts County at the start of the season for £2,500 with a gentleman's agreement that Town would not stand in the way of any American offer.

Topping Stopped

IT'S not surprising Huddersfield Town centre-half Chris Topping felt under the weather recently.

His long run of consecutive League and Cup appearances (427) ended because Wigan's army of voluntary snow clearers ensured their home game with Town took place — while the 6ft. 1in. former York City defender was out injured.

"Another few days would have made all the difference," said Selby-born Topping, who moved to Leeds Road last summer after a long career at York, where he made 412 League appearances.

If Topping had played at Wigan he would have needed only two more games to equal the record set nearly a quarter of a century ago by Harold Bell, of Tranmere Rovers.

OPEN MIND

TRANSFER-listed Irish goalkeeper Mike Kearns has done Walsall proud between the posts at Fellows Park. In six seasons at the club he missed just four matches and has more than repaid the £12,000 outlay to his former club Oxford United.

"I wanted to go on the transfer list. I had been unhappy for some time and I admit it affected my form. But there were other factors also. What my career needs now is a change of scenery. I have an open mind about it but I admit I wouldn't mind an opportunity to play in America if nothing comes up here," said Mike, capped 16 times for Eire and whose contract at Walsall ends this season.

HAMILTON Accies new centre-half Allan McDougall is one of the game's late developers, but he's got good reasons for that.

Allan (22) spent two summers in America coaching tennis, while his team-mates with crack juvenile side Kilbryde KV were being picked up by senior clubs.

But last season, he skippered KV to three major trophies.

APOLOGY

On the cover of last week's issue (dated 17th March) we announced coverage, in photos and features, of the F.A. Cup Round 6 and the Scottish Cup Round 5. Unfortunately, owing to postponed ties due to the adverse weather conditions, replays, and our advanced printing schedules, we were unable to include the promised reviews. We hope that disappointed readers will understand our problem and accept our declaration that there was no attempt to mislead them.

DAVID GREGORY, Editor

'GREAT GREENHOFF'

JIMMY Greenhoff is ideal for leading a First Division attack. Who says so? His boss, Dave Sexton, manager of Manchester United.

"Jimmy is a good professional who has played consistently well for us this season," says Sexton. "He scored a fine goal for us in our pre-season tour in Cologne and has gone on playing like that and scoring good goals for us ever since."

His former boss at Stoke, Tony Waddington, reckons Greenhoff is playing better now at the age of 32 than he was earlier in his career.

MIDFIELDER David Dunthorne has made himself a promise. The Norwich-born youngster who left the Canaries last year after being with them for four years, is now playing in Norway . . . but he means to be back in this country in two years.

FACTastic

ALTHOUGH the goalkeeping brothers Dave and Peter Latchford, formerly with Birmingham City and West Bromwich Albion, are now rivals in the Scottish League, they never met in a Football League match. But some years ago George and Desmond Thompson were opposing keepers in Division Three games with Scunthorpe and York City respectively and in Division One with Preston North End and Burnley.

St. Patrick's Day Showdown!

NOTTINGHAM Forest ace Martin O'Neill (left) and Southampton pivot Chris Nicholl could add a touch of Shamrock magic to this week's (March 17) League Cup Final clash, at Wembley.

The Northern Ireland duo have both tasted success in recent League Cup deciders. Iffy Nicholl gaining winners' tankards with Aston Villa, v. Norwich City (1-0) and Everton (3-2), in 1975 and 1977, respectively, while schemer-cum-scorer O'Neill, of course, starred in Forest's 1977-78 Championship-League Cup "double" glory.

Kilrea-born Martin, a 1971 City Ground arrival from Distillery, and with well over 200 League appearances, is poised to equal opponent Nicholl's and the perennial Pat Jennings' two League Cup Final wins' record for a Northern Ireland player.

However, twice-victorious Nicholl, a 40-match-plus Football League campaigner with Halifax, Luton, Villa and now Southampton, will be aiming for a third Final triumph to make him the most successful Ulsterman in the competition's 19-term history.

One way or another, at least one pair of Irish eyes should be smiling this St. Patrick's night!

ALL-BLACKS v. ALL-WHITES

WEST Bromwich Albion's decision to stage an All-Black versus an All-White testimonial for their long serving midfield player, Len Cantello, has had a mixed reception in the Midlands.

Football fans, generally, have welcomed the idea but local politicians believe it will do nothing but harm.

Len Cantello said: "We believe this game will be good for football and to be perfectly honest the problem of race relations has not even crossed our minds.

"Manager, Ron Atkinson, came up with the idea and we all feel it will be a tremendous game of football to watch.

"It will certainly be different from the run-of-the-mill testimonial games and I'm hoping it will attract a big crowd."

Players expected to take part include Laurie Cunningham, Cyrille Regis, Brendon Batson, Bob Hazell, George Berry, Viv Anderson, Garry Thompson, Luther Blissett, Ricky Hill and Garth Crooks.

It could be quite a night at The Hawthorns.

ADMIRAL BOOK OF SOCCER 1979 WINNERS

Richard Tucker, SUFFOLK.	Darren Field, BERKS.
Pat Robbins, SOUTH YORKS.	Paul Bowser, NORTH YORKS.
Jason Chester, CHESHIRE.	Alan Lane, TYNE AND WEAR.
D Fleming, Melbourne, AUSTRALIA.	David Poole, DERBYSHIRE.
Grant Roxburgh, CHESHIRE.	Robert Knowles, LANCS.
Bobby Gunby, PLYMOUTH.	Adrian Cattermole, LEICESTER.
Gary Fields, CHESTER.	Richard Humphrey, LONDON W5.
Darren Cooper, HUMBERSIDE.	Christopher Talbot, LINCNS.
Mark Hammersley, SURREY.	Christopher Pugh, SOUTH WALES.
Steven Young, NOTTINGHAM.	Murray Cosgrove, NEW ZEALAND.

No Big Deal for World Cup Star



MIDDLESBROUGH manager John Neal was astonished at the recent figures Argentine star Rene Houseman (left) quoted he had lost over his transfer breakdown earlier this season.

Houseman said in Buenos Aires he would have earned £2,000 a month and £750 a win if he had joined the North-East club.

Neal countered, "I think the interpreter must have got his figures mixed up. Houseman would have made his cash out of the £330,000 transfer. I believe Argentinian players claim over 20 per cent.

"There is no way I would have made him a superstar to create dressing-room unrest. I offered Rene the same basic wages as the rest of the players."

The World Cup player is disillusioned with life this season after the glamour and glory of the summer.

DERBY WINNER

DAVE Watson, the Manchester City and England number five, was elected the "City Man of the Match" by the 47 guests of Oldham Batteries Ltd., sponsors of the Manchester City v. Manchester United derby match at Maine Road on February 10th.

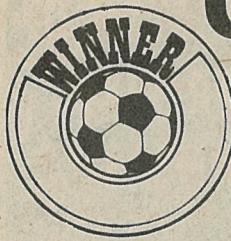
Oldham are the first company to take advantage of the new match sponsorship package at Maine Road, which includes a luxurious purpose-built sponsorship room. The fixture was ideal in many ways as it received a 40 minute coverage on BBC's Match of the Day.



Dave Watson receiving his awards from Joe Brogan, director and general manager of Oldham Batteries, Automotive and Engineering Divisions.

C & G Super Soccer Club

Soccer Colleges 1979



These are of 5 days duration, and are designed for the younger player who has a desire to improve his ability, and is prepared to work hard to the end. The Courses are arranged during the school holidays so as to interfere as little as possible with the boys' schooling. The College Course is varied in content, the programme has been devised by the C&G Coaching Staff and will bring each youngster to his maximum potential. The Courses are all residential and include bed and full board.

A TYPICAL COLLEGE PROGRAMME

	9.00 - 10.30	10.45 - 12.15	2.00 - 3.30	3.45 - 5.15	6.15 - 8.00
MON.	Arrive by 10.30 am	Coaching: Basic Kicking	GAME	Coaching: Basic Control	5-a-Side Soccer Comp.
TUES.	Coaching: Heading	Coaching: Small games with ball.	Coaching: Shooting	GAME	FILM 'PELE'
WED.	Coaching: Tackling	Coaching: Dribbling	A VISIT TO A LEAGUE CLUB'S TRAINING SESSION		5-a-Side in Gymnasium
THURS.	Small Game Attack V Defence	Coaching: Unusual Skills Session	'STAR PLAYER' WILL ATTEND FOR AFTERNOON		'Head Tennis' in Gymnasium
FRI.	GAME vs A TOP SIDE IN THE AREA		Presentation of Prizes & Certificates		

LIST OF VENUES 1979

VENUE	DATE
AMERSHAM	Feb. 19th - 23rd
AMERSHAM	Apr. 2nd - 6th
LIVERPOOL	Apr. 9th - 13th
COLCHESTER	Jul. 30th - Aug. 3rd
COLCHESTER	Aug. 6th - 10th
NOTTINGHAM	Aug. 13th - 17th
NOTTINGHAM	Aug. 20th - 24th
LIVERPOOL	Aug. 27th - 31st
AMERSHAM	Oct. 22nd - 26th
AMERSHAM	Dec. 17th - 21st



Brian Talbot (Arsenal & England)
Reading our Club's own Newspaper with a Club Member, during one of our visits to a Top Club's ground.



A dream moment for one Club Member being photographed here with **Steve Heighway** (Liverpool & Eire) during a Soccer College.



Bryan Hamilton (Swindon & N. Ireland)
Giving a few coaching tips on one of last year's Colleges.

STEVE HEIGHWAY
STEWART HOUSTON
BRYAN HAMILTON
MICK MILLS

BRIAN TALBOT
DAVEY JONES
JOHN HOLLINS
ROY McFARLAND

TERRY YORATH
BRIAN KIDD
DAI DAVIES
DAVID NISH

EDDIE GRAY
CHRIS NICHOLL
CLIVE WOODS
JOHN DEEHAN

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NOTTINGHAM Forest and Southampton compete in the 19th League Cup Final, the 12th held at Wembley Stadium.

Brian Clough's Nottingham Forest will be there defending the title won last season at the expense of mighty Liverpool.

Southampton, appearing in their first League Cup Final, are no strangers to Wembley either, under manager Lawrie McMenemy.

They won the F.A. Cup in 1975-76 against Manchester United and lost 1-0 against Liverpool in the Charity Shield in 1976.

Yet they remain underdogs in this contest against a side that are currently riding high in the First Division and have reached the Quarter-Finals of the European Cup.

Their appearance in the League Cup Final against Liverpool last season confirmed that the Cup is no longer the "Cinderella" competition. Forest and Liverpool gave the Final a fresh impetus,

and Forest's success in reaching Wembley again confirms that the League Cup Final is now a red-letter day in the football calendar.

This season's Final offers many exciting possibilities. Can Southampton's veteran midfield player and captain Alan Ball outwit Forest's wily midfield expert and captain John McGovern? Can Southampton's imported Yugoslavian full-back Ivan Golac curb the menace of Forest's flying Scot John Robertson? Can Southampton's winger Terry Curran turn in a match-winning performance against a club that once dispensed with his services? Whose tactics will be planned best on the big day — Clough's or McMenemy's?

Some observers believe that this could be the best League Cup Final yet. They seem to get better and better as we see in this look back at . . .

TWELVE YEARS OF WEMBLEY FINALS



**LEAGUE
CUP
FINAL
1979**

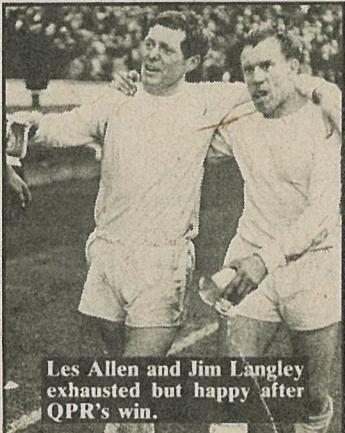
1967
Q.P.R. 3
West Brom 2

Q.P.R. were as good as dead when their former left-winger Clive Clark put West Bromwich Albion 2-0 ahead in 37 minutes of the first League Cup Final held at Wembley.

Then came one of the most astonishing transformations in Wembley history. Roger Morgan scored with a header 15 minutes after the interval and Rodney Marsh conjured a magical equaliser in the 75th minute.

Fifteen minutes left, could Q.P.R., then in the Third Division, clinch the game? Incredibly they did. Mark Lazarus scored the winner with just eight minutes left to complete the Cup's most surprising result.

QPR: Springett; Hazell, Langley, Keen, Hunt, Sibley, Lazarus, Sanderson, Allen, Marsh, R. Morgan. **WBA:** Sheppard; Cram, Williams, Collard, Clarke, Fraser, Brown, Astle, Kaye, Hope, Clark.



Les Allen and Jim Langley exhausted but happy after QPR's win.

HOW THEY GOT THERE

SOUTHAMPTON

Second Round, Birmingham City 2, Southampton 5 (Boyer 2, MacDougal 2, Peach)
Third Round, Southampton 1, Derby 0 (Boyer)
Fourth Round, Reading 0, Southampton 0
REPLAY, Southampton 2, Reading 0 (Hebberd, Nicholl)
Fifth Round, Southampton 2, Man. City 1 (Boyer, Hebberd)
Semi-Final, first-leg, Leeds United 2, Southampton 2 (Holmes, Williams)
Second-leg, Southampton 1, Leeds United 0 (Curran)

FOREST

Second Round, Oldham 0, Forest 0
REPLAY, Forest 4, Oldham 2 (Needham, Burns, Woodcock, Robertson, pen.)
Third Round, Oxford 0, Forest 5 (Birtles, McGovern, O'Neill, Robertson, Anderson)
Fourth Round, Everton 2, Forest 3 (Woodcock, Lloyd, Anderson)
Fifth Round, Forest 3, Brighton 1 (McGovern, Robertson, Birtles)
Semi-Final, first-leg, Forest 3, Watford 1 (Birtles, McGovern, Robertson)
Second-leg, Watford 0, Forest 0

1968
Arsenal 0
Leeds United 1

VICTORY for Leeds signified the start of the Elland Road club's trophy winning supremacy. It was the first major trophy they had won in their history. But what a bore the game became. Hundreds of fans were leaving Wembley long before the end.

Leeds United's England defender Terry Cooper (now with Bristol City) broke the deadlock, scoring the only goal after 19 minutes. The England left-back lashed in a shot after George Graham had half-cleared Eddie Gray's corner. Arsenal protested that Furness, their goalkeeper, was impeded by the goal stood.

In sharp contrast, Leeds' Welsh international goalkeeper Gary Sprake was almost unemployed. Arsenal: Furness; Storey, McNab, McLintock, Simpson, Ure, Radford, K Jenkins (Neill), Graham, Samuels, Armstrong.

Leeds: Sprake; Reaney, Cooper, Bremner, Charlton, Hunter, Greenhoff, Lorimer, Madeley, Giles, Gray (Beifitt).

1969
Arsenal 1
Swindon Town 3

THE Cup went to the Third Division for the second time in three seasons when little Swindon came to Wembley to humble mighty Arsenal. It was the second successive year that the Gunners had picked up losers' tankards. Roger Smart struck first for Swindon, punishing a slipshod Arsenal defence in the 35th minute. But Bobby Gould, now coach at Hereford, equalised with just four minutes of normal time left. Now, surely, Arsenal's superior fitness would tell? Don Rogers shattered that theory with two goals in extra-time.

So Arsenal trooped off dejectedly — and the West Country club went home in triumph to dancing in the streets.

Arsenal: Wilson; Storey, McNab, McLintock, Ure, Simpson (Graham), Radford, Samuels, Court, Gould, Armstrong.

Swindon Town: Downsborough; Thomas, Trollope, Butler, Burrows, Harland, Heath, Smart, Smith (Penman), Noble, Rogers.

1970

Manchester City 2
West Brom 1
(after extra-time)

THIS was Glyn Pardoe's moment of triumph. The Manchester City full-back scored the winner in extra-time — from the left-wing.

Nine months later, Pardoe suffered a broken leg that was to mar the rest of his career at Maine Road.

City were behind from the fifth minute, when Jeff Astle headed the opening goal. Mike Doyle equalised in the 65th minute after the injured and limping Mike Summerbee touched the ball into his path. Two minutes later Summerbee was replaced but Francis Lee inspired a deserved triumph by City.

Manchester City: Corrigan; Book, Mann, Doyle, Booth, Oakes, Heslop, Bell, Summerbee (Bowyer), Lee, Pardoe.

WBA: Osborne; Fraser, Wilson, Brown, Talbut, Brown, Cantello, Suggett, Astle, Hartford (Krzewicki), Hope.



1971

Aston Villa 0 Tottenham Hotspur 2

FOR the third time in five seasons, the League Cup Final matched the Third Division against the First Division. And for the first time, the favourites won the tie.

Yet Villa rose to the occasion in spectacular fashion, making a mockery of the difference in class with their hard running and enthusiasm. Indeed, they almost took the lead through Andy Lockhead on the hour. Had it not been for Steve Perryman's crucial clearance from his own line, Villa would have been one up.

Martin Chivers, now with Norwich, broke the deadlock in the final 11 minutes when he scored twice past Dunn.

Aston Villa: Dunn; Bradley, Aitken, Godfrey, Turnbull, Tiler, McMahon, Riach, Lockhead, Hamilton, Anderson.

Tottenham: Jennings; Kinnear, Knowles, Mullery, Collins, Beal, Gilzean, Perryman, Chivers, Peters, Neighbour.

1972

Chelsea 1 Stoke City 2

GEORGE Eastham, Stoke's veteran midfield maestro, was given the kind of reception that a Wembley crowd reserve only for the chosen few when he scored Stoke's winner in the 74th minute.

Eastham's winner gave the Final the same dash of romance that Stan Matthews had given the Blackpool-Bolton F.A. Cup Final 19 years before.

The former Newcastle and Arsenal player started and ended the match-winning move to score his first goal of the season.

The Republic of Ireland's Terry Conroy put Stoke ahead in the fifth minute. Chelsea, looking the more likely winners, equalised through Peter Osgood.

Then came Eastham's goal, which shattered Chelsea's dream of a Cup hat-trick, following their triumphs in the 1970 F.A. Cup and Cup-Winners' Cup in 1971. Chelsea: Bonetti; Mulligan (Baldwin), Harris, Hollins, Dempsey, Webb, Cooke, Garland, Osgood, Hudson, Houseman. Stoke City: Banks; Marsh, Pejic, Bernard, Smith, Bloor, Conroy, Greenhoff (Mahoney), Ritchie, Dobing, Eastham.



1973

Norwich City 0 Tottenham Hotspur 1

A SUBSTITUTE stole the show in this League Cup Final, which resulted in Spurs achieving their second victory in the Final of the competition in three years.

Ralph Coates was the hero of the hour when he came on to replace John Pratt, injured early in the game.

Coates' goal came in the 72nd minute — and he became the first sub to score in a Wembley Final.

Norwich were inept. Spurs were little better, but it was Martin Peters, who paraded the Cup around Wembley at the end of the game. He, strangely, is now play-



A penalty! Machin (Norwich) concedes a spot-kick against Villa in 1975.

ing consistently well for Norwich six years later.

Norwich: Keelan; Payne, Butler, Stringer, Forbes, Briggs, Livermore, Blair (Howard), Cross, Padron, Anderson.

Tottenham: Jennings; Kinnear, Knowles, Pratt (Coates), England, Beal, Gilzean, Perryman, Chivers, Peters, Pearce.

1974

Manchester City 1 Wolves 2

STRIKER John Richards came back from injury to shatter Manchester City's dream of a second League Cup Final victory in five years.

Richards had been out of action for a fortnight with a stomach strain — and was about to be substituted by Wolves' manager Bill McGarry when he scored the winner. Injury to Dave Wagstaffe changed McGarry's mind about pulling Richards off.

Ken Hibbitt put Wolves in front a minute before the interval. Colin Bell equalised after an hour, but the real hero of the Final was Wolves' keeper Gary Pierce, a 23-year-old playing only his 13th senior game.

Manchester City: MacRae; Pardoe, Donachie, Doyle, Booth, Towers, Summerbee, Bell, Lee, Law, Marsh.

Wolves: Pierce; Palmer, Parkin, Bailey, Munro, McAlle, Hibbitt, Sunderland, Richards, Dougan, Wagstaffe (Powell).

the field, should score the only goal of the game.

It came dramatically from a penalty ten minutes from the end. Kevin Keelan saved superbly from Graydon's spot-kick, but the Villa winger followed up to score from the rebound. It was Graydon's sixth League Cup goal of the season and settled the first all-Second Division Final.

Aston Villa: Cumbes; Robson, Aitken, Ross, Nicholl, McDonald, Graydon, Little, Leonard, Hamilton, Carrodus.

Norwich: Keelan; Machin, Sullivan, Morris, Forbes, Stringer, Miller, MacDougall, Boyer, Suggett, Powell.

1976

Manchester City 2 Newcastle United 1

NEWCASTLE's big day before their famous black and white army of supporters thronging the terraces was ruined — by a Geordie!

Newcastle born Dennis Tueart, now playing in the States for Cosmos, produced an astonishingly acrobatic bicycle-kick after the interval to send the winner flashing past Newcastle's goalkeeper Mike Mahoney.

City's full-back Willie Donachie started the move with a cross from the left, Tommy Booth headed back into the centre, and Tueart delivered the killer blow.

Peter Barnes put City ahead in the first half, but Malcolm Mac-



The winner from John Richards for Wolves against Manchester City in 1974.

1975

Aston Villa 1 Norwich City 0

THIS was third time lucky for Ron Saunders, the Villa manager. He had taken Norwich and Manchester City to two successive League Cup Final failures, but managed to plot the downfall of Norwich for the second time in three years.

Villa were more creative throughout and it was fitting that Ray Graydon, their flying right-winger and the best forward on

Donald laid an adroit pass in the path of Alan Gowling for the former Manchester United striker to equalise.

The warmth of the Newcastle fans ovation for City on their lap of honour is reckoned to be one of the most sporting gestures seen at Wembley.

Manchester City: Corrigan; Keegan, Donachie, Doyle, Watson, Oakes, Barnes, Booth, Royle, Hartford, Tueart.

Newcastle United: Mahoney, Natrass, Kennedy, Barrowclough, Keeley, Howard, Burns, Cassidy, Macdonald, Gowling, Craig.

continued overleaf



LEAGUE CUP FINAL 1979

1977

Final, second replay

Everton 2
Aston Villa 3 (after extra time)

THE League Cup Final of 1977 promised to rival "Coronation Street" in its duration. The contest, spread over two replays and two periods of extra-time, seemed destined to become the first British Final decided on penalty-kicks.

The improbable solution came after 329 minutes when Villa's Brian Little rolled the softest goal he has ever scored from five yards to win the League Cup.

The Final had started at Wembley a month earlier, ending in a goalless draw. Four days later the sides were locked in combat at Hillsborough. Roger Kenyon put through his own goal to give Villa the lead, but Bob Latchford got a vital touch to force extra-time, and with no further score, another replay.

And so to Old Trafford, on April 13, where the game went into extra-time before Little settled the issue.

Everton: Lawson; Robinson, Dar-racott, Lyons, McNaught, King,

Hamilton, Dobson, Latchford, Pearson (Sargent), Goodlass.
Aston Villa: Burridge; Gidman (Smith), Robson, Phillips, Nicholl, Mortimer, Graydon, Little, Deehan, Cropley, Cowans.

1978
Final replay

Nottingham Forest 1
Liverpool 0

NOTTINGHAM Forest clinched the first trophy in their "double" winning season of 1977-78 when they defeated mighty Liverpool in the League Cup Final replay at Old Trafford.

Liverpool were expected to run riot in the Wembley Final against a side shorn of the services of Dave Needham, Archie Gemmill and Peter Shilton, who were cup-tied. But the game threw-up a most unlikely hero from all the stars on view — 18 year-old Forest goalkeeper Chris Woods. The young 'keeper saved everything Liverpool threw at him to earn Forest a 0-0 draw after extra-time.

Having withstood the Liverpool onslaught once, could Forest repeat their performance in the replay at Old Trafford? This time Forest's attack was more effective. John Robertson broke the deadlock from the penalty-spot after John O'Hare had forced a path through the centre of Liverpool's defence only to be felled unfairly by Phil Thompson.

Nottingham Forest: Woods; Anderson, Clark, O'Hare, Lloyd,



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Manager Lawrie McMenemy with skipper Alan Ball.

'We're not frightened of Forest, despite their experience'

— LAWRIE McMENEMY

SIX months ago Southampton manager Lawrie McMenemy was offered a very lucrative contract to take over as boss of Leeds United. He turned it down.

A few weeks later he was offered an even more mouth-watering open cheque to take over the reins of Sunderland. He turned that down, too.

His reward for that decision will come at ten to three on Saturday afternoon when he leads his Southampton side out at Wembley for the League Cup Final against Nottingham Forest.

Ironically, he could still have been there at the head of the Leeds team leaving the tunnel — but for Southampton's victory over the Yorkshire club in the Semi-Finals.

'Sweeter'

"It would have made a nice story for a lot of people to say victory was all the sweeter for me in that Semi-Final because of the Leeds offer — but it just wasn't true.

"In fact I felt very sorry for the Leeds players and their board who were all very kind to me. They'd lost three Semi-Finals in a row and must be heartily sick. If I'd taken over at Leeds I would have desperately wanted to beat Southampton — and that's the way it has to be in football.

"It may seem strange but there doesn't seem to be as much excitement about getting to Wembley this time as there was the first time. That's always the best — and, of course, the League Cup is a localised competition, whereas the

F.A. Cup is a national event.

"I don't want to sound blasé but having been there for the Manchester United Final in 1976 and again for the Charity Shield the next season, the newness has worn off a little."

McMenemy realises, however, that Saints' appearance in the Final is significant in terms of the progress being made at the club.

"We have some very ambitious plans for this club, including the building of a new stadium, and every success we have at the moment is bound to be a bonus for the future.

"In my five years here something has happened every season. In my first term we went down to the Second Division, so that wasn't a very good start, but in my second year we reached the Final of the Texaco Cup, and lost in the second-leg at Newcastle. In the third we went to Wembley and won the Cup. In the fourth we played in the Charity Shield against Liverpool, and reached the Quarter-Finals of the Cup-Winners' Cup. Last year we won promotion from the Second Division, and now we're in the League Cup Final.

"That's quite a run for a club that's always been regarded as friendly rather than famous — and without a great tradition.

"Every now and again you can get a small club winning something, but when you've been as consistently successful as we have, folk have to sit-up and

accept you've grown out of being small-time."

McMenemy is proud of the fact he's achieved all this during the break-up of three teams.

When he arrived after spells with Doncaster and Grimsby he replaced the existing side with signings like Peter Osgood, Peter Rodrigues and Jim McCalliog.

Attempt

Eventually, their experience had to be replaced, too, and with Mike Channon going to Manchester City, McMenemy virtually started all over again, signing Alan Ball, Ted MacDougall and Chris Nicholl in an attempt to regain First Division status.

Now that has been attained he is still on the look-out for better players while at the same time breeding a new crop of youngsters, many of whom will be getting their first taste of Wembley.

"Of the side that'll play at Wembley only a few have played there before — Ballie, of course, Chris Nicholl in the final two years ago against Villa, David Peach and Nick Holmes in 1976, and Phil Boyer for Norwich.

"Forest are in a similar situation to us, mind you. They've been there a couple of times in the last year, but they're still fighting for recognition.

"They don't have the tradition of Manchester United, or Liverpool or Leeds, and it's only the manage-

ment of Brian Clough and Peter Taylor that has given them charisma.

"It's a very difficult hurdle to overcome because Forest are a good side with a lot of belief in themselves. We're not frightened of them. How can we be after beating as good a team as Leeds over two legs of a Semi-Final — but they do have the edge in experience."

McMenemy, whose dream is of Southampton playing to crowds of 35,000-40,000 in an all-seater super stadium, knows he has to set his team new targets.

"We must get back into Europe. We played Marseilles, Carrick Rangers and Anderlecht a couple of years ago and enjoyed it. Now we want to return while at the same time building a side to be in with a shout in the League Championship.

"So far as the club itself is concerned we have reduced the present capacity of the ground to 26,000, but few people probably know we have 14,000 season ticket holders, we have put new bench seats in, a standing area for season ticket holders, a segregated area for visitors, and a family centre.

"All this is excellent but we are hoping to eventually develop a site for a new stadium. They've been talking about it for 15 years now, but the recent talks have been very amicable and reasonably optimistic."

● Now read what Brian Clough has to say about Forest's chances on page 14.

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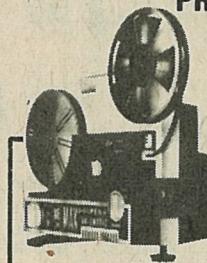
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LEAGUE
CUP
FINAL
1979

CROSS TALK



Forest's Tony Woodcock (light strip) is stopped by Steve Williams of Saints.

ROBERTSON: Hello, Phil. Nice to meet up again, but I don't know whether I'm looking forward to the game or not. We're supposed to be such hot favourites, that it's worrying. People are expecting so much of us, it will be a tragedy if we lose this one.

BOYER: We're delighted for you to be favourites, John. It's clearly an advantage to be underdogs because nobody expects you to win anyway. So hopefully, the pressure will be on you — not us!

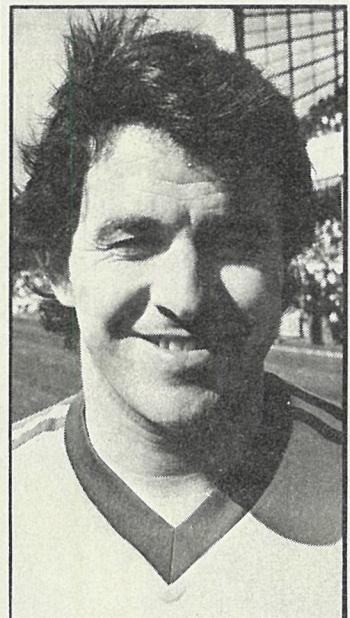
ROBERTSON: We're keen to put on a good show, too, because we let ourselves down in last year's replayed League Cup Final against Liverpool. Mind you, they're such a good team and so used to playing at Wembley, it's not easy to do well against them. They must be the hardest team in the country to get the ball back from.

BOYER: You seemed lucky to survive that game, but then you need a bit of luck to win a trophy. And you didn't have your strongest team did you? Because some of your players were Cup-tied.

ROBERTSON: That's true. We were grateful to get a replay but at the same time, it's better to get the Cup at Wembley. This time, we aim to do just that.

BOYER: I got a losers' medal the last time I played in a League Cup Final. That was for Norwich in the 1975 game against Aston Villa. That was a disappointing match, too — and we lost to a penalty. The upsetting thing was we'd been playing well that season but on the day, a few of the players froze. I suppose you could call it an attack of the Wembley nerves.

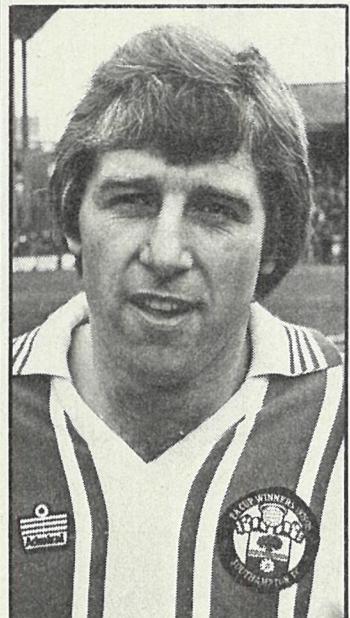
ROBERTSON: Maybe that was



'A tragedy if we lose this one'
JOHN ROBERTSON
(Nottingham Forest)

why we didn't play so well last year. But I don't think so. We go out to play our natural game wherever we go, and that's what we'll be trying to do against you. I think it could be a good show for the fans.

BOYER: I hope so, John. I can see it being exciting after the settling-in period. You've built a reputation as



'Being the underdogs will be an advantage'
PHIL BOYER
(Southampton)

an attacking side, and we're at our best going forward. So it should be cut and thrust stuff.

ROBERTSON: Alan Ball has had a great season for you. So has Steve Williams. Nick Holmes seems to pop up with important goals, and you're not bad in that department yourself, Phil.

BOYER: I haven't done too badly

this season. I fancy knocking in one at Wembley — especially the winner. We'll be keeping a close eye on you, John. You always seem to do well. And Tony Woodcock is very quick and dangerous. We won't want to give him a lot of room.

ROBERTSON: Tony's going through a sticky period at the moment since the arrival of Trevor Francis. His main problem's scoring. Certainly, I'd rather him alongside me in the Final rather than against me.

BOYER: The secret of our success this season is much like yours — team work. Everyone in the team has been doing well. I'm looking forward to another good tussle with Larry Lloyd and Kenny Burns.

ROBERTSON: Larry has been absolutely brilliant this season. Garry Birtles has come into the side to do very well, too. And the midfield lads have worked hard. I must say, you gave us a difficult game at The Dell earlier in the season. We were pleased to get a 0-0 draw and I should think any side who draw at your place are satisfied.

BOYER: I thought we had the better of that game and but for some excellent saves by Peter Shilton, we would have won. But then Peter always seems to produce the goods when you need it.

ROBERTSON: Yes, he's not bad is he? He wasn't eligible to play last year, of course, so he will be particularly keen to pick up a winner's tankard this time. Anyway, I hope it's a great game for the fans, Phil — and the best team gets the Cup.

BOYER: My sentiments entirely. See you on Saturday, John.

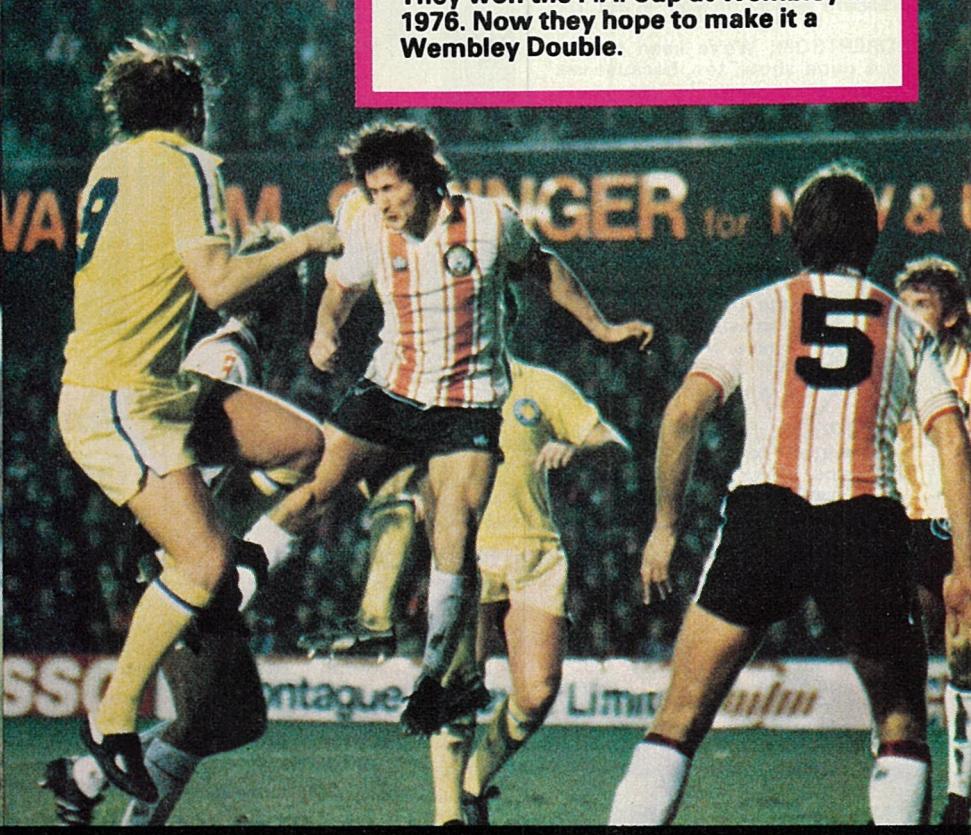
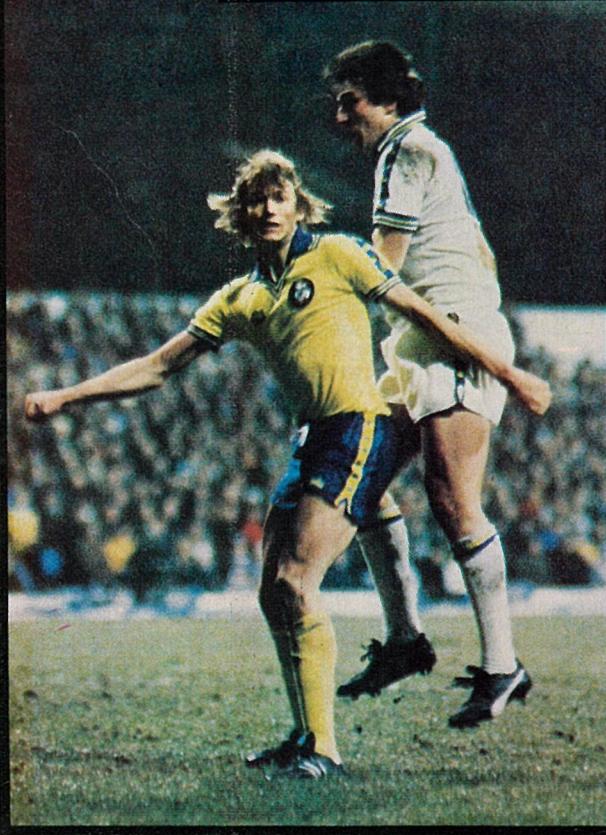
FIRST FOR SAINTS...



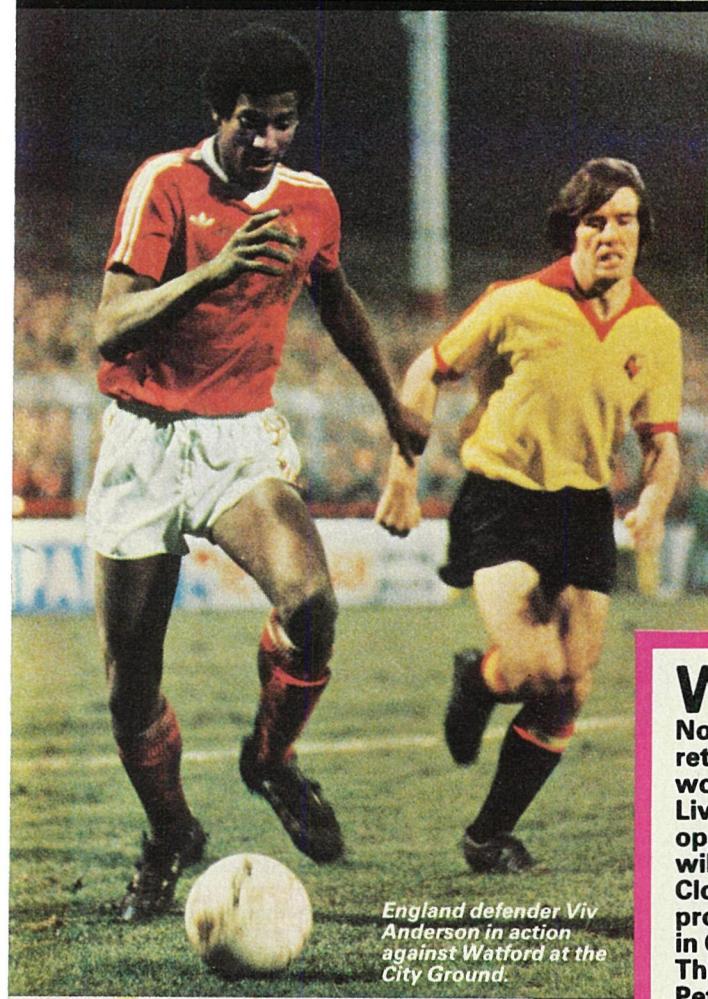
Saints' Nick Holmes, the sole survivor from their F.A. Cup Final team, celebrates his goal at Leeds. Phil Boyer runs to congratulate him.

BELOW, LEFT... Leeds' striker Ray Hankin climbs above Malcolm Waldron during the Semi-Final first-leg tie at Elland Road.
BELOW, RIGHT... Saints' Yugoslav defender Ivan Golac is in command at The Dell, where Saints won 1-0 to clinch their Final ticket.

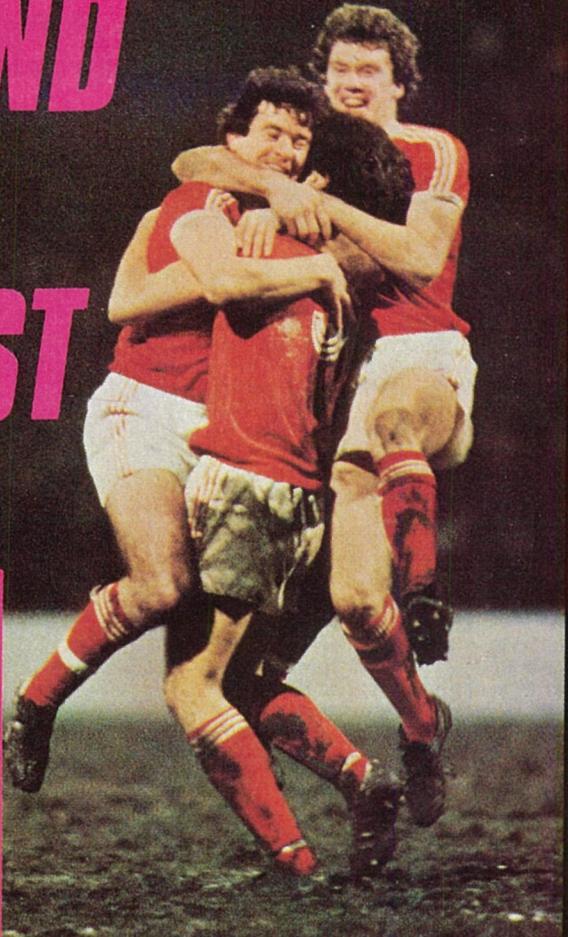
SOUTHAMPTON bid to win the League Cup for the first time and while they start as underdogs, nobody, least of all Forest, will underestimate Saints. They're hardened Cup-fighters and have experienced campaigners in Chris Nicholl, Alan Ball and Phil Boyer. They won the F.A. Cup at Wembley in 1976. Now they hope to make it a Wembley Double.



SECOND FOR FOREST



England defender Viv Anderson in action against Watford at the City Ground.



WATCHED by £1 million Trevor Francis, Nottingham Forest hope to retain the League Cup they won so bravely last year. If Liverpool were difficult opponents in '78, Saints will be no easier, but Brian Clough's team have produced their best football in Cup games this season. This time stars such as Peter Shilton and Archie Gemmill — Cup-tied a year ago — will be available and extra keen to make up for missing last season's Wembley run.

ABOVE... It's that Wembley feeling! Forest show their joy after a goal against Watford. BELOW... Martin O'Neill rounds Watford keeper Steve Sherwood.



'The big occasion could upset young Saints'



LEAGUE
CUP
FINAL
1979

— BRIAN CLOUGH

WHEN the Nottingham Forest players step out on to the Wembley turf for their League Cup duel with Southampton it'll feel like home from home.

After all, this is the third time in a year that the men from the City Ground will have tasted the experience always regarded as the peak of any professional's career.

"It's a good feeling when you leave the darkness of the tunnel for the bright sunlight of the stadium and my players are getting to like it," says Forest manager Brian Clough, without a trace of arrogance.

"When we came here for the first time last March to play Liverpool in the League Cup Final a lot of my players were apprehensive. It was all new to them. Now we've probably got more players who've played at Wembley before than Southampton."

Some of those players, men like Forest captain John McGovern, Frank Clark, Ian Bowyer, Dave Needham and John Robertson could never have imagined in their wildest dreams to have been making a regular trip to soccer's mecca a few years ago when their careers seemed to be on the down.

It has never ceased to amaze folk in football how Brian Clough has integrated players like this into a Championship and League Cup-winning side.

'Grafters'

"Every team needs brilliant players if it is going to win anything and I've got brilliant players in Peter Shilton, Viv Anderson and John Robertson. But around them you must have the McGoverns and Clarks and the Bowyers who are good, honest grafters. Men who'll die in the cause of the club and always be good professionals.

"With the exception of Garry Birtles, the whole of my regular first team squad is now going to Wembley having been there before, so the stage will not be so frightening the second time around.

"We know it is not going to be an easy game even though we probably start favourites.

"No side that beats Leeds over two legs especially the way they are playing right now, can be a pushover and Southampton will come out fighting.

"Lawrie has done a magnificent job at Southampton. He is trying to convince people who have not been used to winning and cheering that he has got something going. We've experienced that at Forest where despite all our success the gates have been bitterly disappointing.

"Judging by the way the tickets have gone we'll have more sup-



"It's our Cup" Kenny Burns holds the League Cup aloft after Forest's 1-0 defeat of Liverpool in the replayed Final last season.



Forest boss Brian Clough clutches the "Manager of the Year" trophy.

port at Wembley than we had last year, but it's obvious the people of Nottingham will only turn out for the big occasions. I don't know whether they are thick in a footballing sense or whether they just won't get off their backsides.

"When Trevor Francis made his debut we were being watched by our smallest League crowd of the season. Anywhere else in the country they would have been knocking down the doors to get in."

Clough acknowledges that McMenemy has put together a quality side of youth and experience down at The Dell.

"Lawrie made a great signing in Alan Ball, he's got a very good left-back in David Peach, the middle of the defence has been tightened by Chris Nicholl and then there's Phil Boyer to score the goals. I sold him 12 years ago when I was at Derby so that shows how much experience there is in the side.

"Having said that, Southampton probably have more youngsters than we have and some of them might find the occasion a bit awe-inspiring."

At the start of this season many critics predicted Forest would falter in most competitions while in pursuit of their major priority the European Cup. But Clough refutes that:

"I've always said our number one target this season is the League Championship and nothing has happened to make me change my mind. That is still our main aim.

"Before we kicked a ball I had a lengthy discussion with all our players and the longest chat was about incentives. Of course it would be great to win the European Cup, it would be great to win the League Cup, but they really are the icing on the cake."

BRYAN ROBSON
(West Ham)

THE fact Nottingham Forest hardly give anything away in defence will be the deciding factor in this year's League Cup Final at Wembley.

I know they don't score many either but they have only to grab one and they are quite capable of holding on to that sort of lead.

Another point in their favour is that they are more or less out of the running for the League Championship and were knocked out of the F. A. Cup by Arsenal.

Brian Clough will motivate them to such an extent that they will all realise this is their only definite passport to European football next season. I know they are still involved in the European Cup but they haven't battled their way through to the Final yet, so therefore the League Cup is their best bet.

I can't see many goals scored and I go for a 1-0 victory for Forest.

DAVID O'LEARY
(Arsenal)



DEEP down inside I would love to see Southampton upset the odds and beat holders Nottingham Forest.

As Arsenal proved in the F.A. Cup last month, Forest aren't unbeatable. Both teams have a good defence and it's unfortunate for Saints they will have to beat possibly the world's greatest 'keeper, Peter Shilton.

Although I would like Saints to win, it's got to be Forest to take the Cup in a low scoring Final.

LAURIE CUNNINGHAM
(West Brom)

THE vital issue in this Final is going to be settled in midfield. And that's why I plump for Nottingham Forest because in this department they are stronger than Southampton.

Archie Gemmill, John McGovern and Martin O'Neill are all potential match-winners. This is where Saints' Alan Ball has got to get Nick Holmes and Steve Williams working. If the Forest trio are unsettled then Southampton could come into their own.

It's going to be a tight match at Wembley on Saturday, but I have to go for Forest. A scoreline? 2-1.

We asked eight players to forecast which team will win the League Cup, and give reasons why . . .



**LEAGUE
CUP
FINAL
1979**

HOLDERS GET THE MAJORITY VOTE

MIKE CHANNON
(Manchester City)

I KNOW people will accuse me of being biased but I honestly believe Southampton are going to win the League Cup.

Saints have improved tremendously in the League lately, while Forest have slipped a little. Lawrie McMenemy's lads are not giving goals away either and the League Champions are finding it hard to score.

The difference between the two sides could be Alan Ball. I have voted for him as my Player of the Year because he is having an outstanding season.

Forget anything about being underdogs, Southampton will win by 3-1.



GARTH CROOKS
(Stoke City)

IF I have to choose one club then I would select Nottingham Forest. But there will not be a lot between them at the end.

I go for Brian Clough's League Champions only because they have been to Wembley before and have the greater experience than Southampton.

After their disappointment against Arsenal, Clough and Peter Taylor will ensure their lads run till they drop in an effort to become the first club to win the League Cup two seasons running.

Mind you, Lawrie McMenemy will welcome Southampton being labelled the underdogs as he was the last time he visited Wembley for a Cup Final against Manchester United in 1976. And everyone knows what happened to United.

Yet, I still go for Forest and reckon they will sneak it by the odd goal.



FRANK WORTHINGTON
(Bolton)

SOUTHAMPTON have done tremendously well in their first season back in the top Division. They have a fine blend of youth and experience but I reckon Nottingham Forest have the overall strength to win.

Saints will have to keep a watchful eye on winger John Robertson whom I believe is their key player.

He is difficult to knock off the ball because of his superb balance. He's also likely to score a few goals, too.

It's a pity Trevor Francis can't play because he would have been a dangerous threat to Saints.

Clough's men are going to find it hard to break down Southampton but I feel the League Champions will win 2-1.

JOHN RICHARDS
(Wolves)

MAN for man I believe Nottingham Forest have the better team. Although Brian Clough's men seem to be going through an indifferent patch at the moment, I think they will be just too strong for Southampton.

Since their chances of regaining the League Championship are slim and they were knocked out of the F.A. Cup by Arsenal, this will make them all the more determined to pick up a domestic trophy.

Having said that, if they become complacent then Southampton possess the players capable of taking advantage. And in Alan Ball they have a great leader.

I think it will be an attacking-conscious Final with Forest winning 3-1.

ANDY GRAY
(Aston Villa)

THE winner's name is on the Cup, I'm convinced of that. All they have to do is to go out and confirm it. When we won the League Cup two years ago, we could sense our name was on the trophy, which it was. I'm going for Forest; man-for-man they are stronger than Southampton. It won't be easy and I think it'll be a close game. I'd love Saints to win for my former team-mate Chris Nicholl, but it's Forest for me. Southampton have been playing well, while Forest don't seem to be having too many lucky breaks, as their F.A. Cup defeat by Arsenal proved. Even so, it's Forest to win the League Cup again.



KNOCKED-OUT...

Valiant small clubs who were beaten by 'big brothers'





LEAGUE
CUP
FINAL
1979

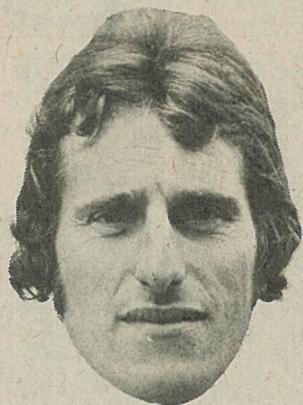
Finalists Southampton almost came a cropper against Reading in an earlier round, but won 2-0 in a replay.

BUT ONLY JUST!



John Gregory (dark shirt) hits one of Aston Villa's goals as Crystal Palace are beaten 3-0 in the Third Round second replay.

Watford almost reached Wembley, but this Semi-Final goal by Forest's Garry Birtles (number 9) helped Brian Clough's men to their second successive League Cup Final.



'WE'RE NO LONGER THE TEAM EVERYONE MOST WANTS TO BEAT'

After their double of Championship and League Cup last season, Nottingham Forest took over from Liverpool as the team everyone most wanted to beat. Brian Clough's merry men from the City Ground have found things a lot tougher second time around, and it's a marvellous testament to their character and skills that they have progressed so well in the League Cup competition, the European Cup — remember, they knocked out Liverpool in the very First Round — and still have an outside chance of retaining the League title.

The League Cup is the least glamorous of the two home trophies, but that shouldn't diminish their feat of reaching the Final for a second successive time.

It's hard for Liverpool not to feel some envy over Forest defending a trophy which is the only major piece of silverware in England that has never graced our boardroom.

Up until last season, when we met Forest in the Final, the farthest we had progressed in the competition was to the Quarter-Finals.

It was a big disappointment when Forest took the trophy after John O'Hare won a disputed penalty-kick in the replay at Old Trafford. We are still convinced that Phil Thompson brought John down with the ball outside the area, but we accepted referee Pat Partridge's decision as one of those things that happens in the game. We have had our fair share of benefit from injustices inflicted on other teams.

Our ambition of reaching the Final this season and enjoying the unique experience of parading the trophy before our fans was wrecked by Second Division Sheffield United at Bramall Lane. The ground lived up to its reputation as a graveyard for Cup-hunting visitors.

For 85 minutes we battered at the United goal without success. Even Kenny Dalglish, who had been in tremendous goalscoring form since the start of the season, found it impossible to get the ball into the net.

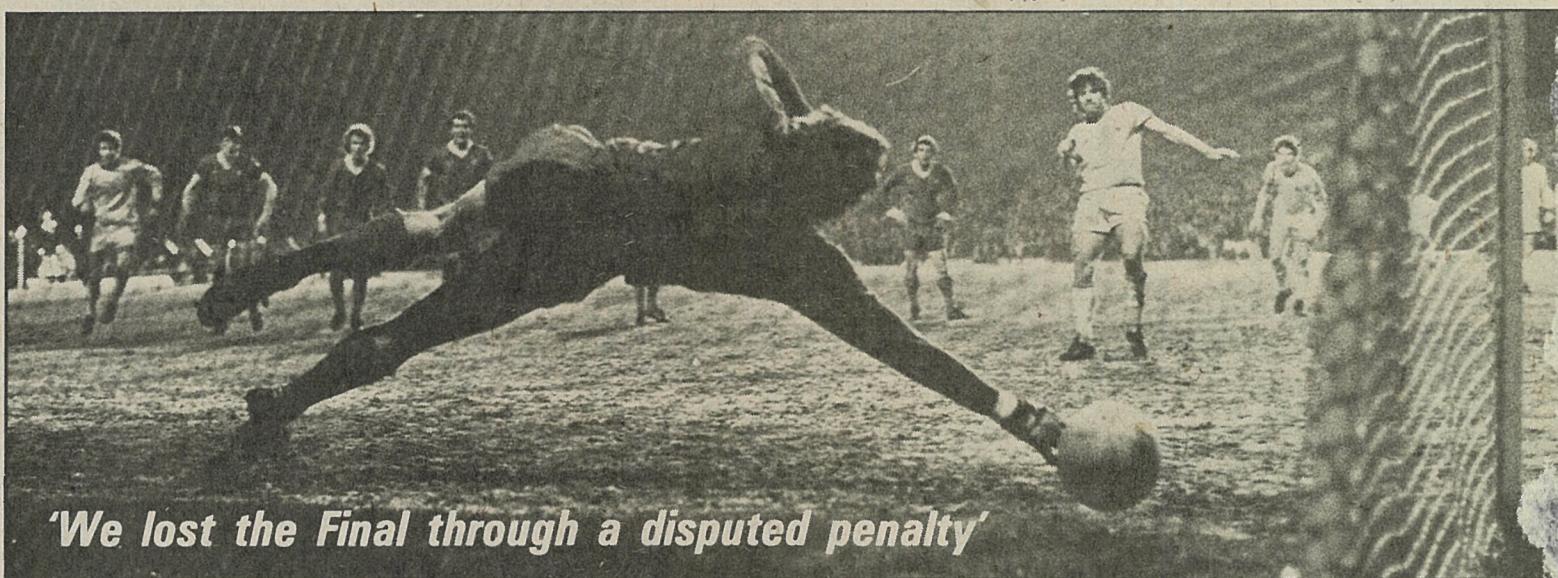
Then the ball appeared on our 18-yard line. Our defenders made two or three futile attempts to clear. The ball went to the feet of Alejandro Sabella, their Argentine midfield man, who smartly pushed it

RAY CLEMENCE
talking soccer

wide to Gary Hamson for him to dart in and score past me.

It was sickening to be out of the competition at the very first stage.

Cup-holders Forest obviously start as favourites to retain the trophy, which they won with three regular players sidelined through being Cup-tied: Peter Shilton, Archie Gemmill and Dave



'We lost the Final through a disputed penalty'

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John Oakes

My great-uncle, John Oakes, was born in 1902 — and, as he played for Charlton in the 1946 F.A. Cup Final, must be the oldest man ever to play at Wembley. Unfortunately, my family has lost touch — and, if you know where we could contact him, we'd be awfully grateful.

CAROLYN OAKES,
MIDDLESBROUGH

I've checked with Charlton, Carolyn, but I'm afraid the last trace they have of your great-uncle dates back to 1972 — when, they tell me, he was working for a Northfleet paper firm in their neighbourhood.

But if John Oakes — or anyone who knows his present whereabouts — should see this, and like to contact us at SHOOT!, we'll be only too pleased to put you in touch.

United/Spurs

As a keen fan of Spurs and Manchester United, I'd like to know how they fared on the day I was born — 9th March, 1963?

MOHD AMIRUDDIN JUMAAT,
WEST MALAYSIA

Oddly enough, Mohd, your two favourite teams were playing each other in a First Division game at Old Trafford that day — and Tottenham took both points with a 2-0 win.

Incidentally, while we've had a pretty "frozen" season over here in 1978-79 — with a lot of matches postponed — the day on which you were born was quite a landmark in Britain's worst-ever season, weatherwise.

In 1962-63, more than 400 top League and Cup games were postponed — and 9th March was the first Saturday since

the previous 8th December that not a single match had to be called-off.

Highest and Lowest

What was the highest, and lowest, average home gate in the Football League last season?

JOHN DUNPHY,
EIRE

It'll probably come as no surprise to you to learn Manchester United — despite only finishing tenth in the First Division — hit the attendance heights with an average of 51,860, John.

At the other end of the scale — though not that far away geographically — came Rochdale with 1,275.

Needham. Their replacements, particularly reserve 'keeper, young Chris Woods, certainly did their club proud.

Now, with mainspring Kenny Burns — "Footballer of the Year" — back recovered from a cartilage operation, the Forest players must be full of confidence.

The preparatory build-up to the big occasion at Wembley — something every player dreams about, and so few achieve — is probably following the same pattern as last year.

They also have the boost of having soundly beaten F.A. Cup-holders Ipswich by a resounding 5-0 at Wembley on the Saturday before the season in the Charity Shield.

And with such an experienced, battle-hardened "team" of back-room boys, manager Brian Clough, his assistant Peter Taylor and trainer Jimmy Gordon behind them, they seem a near-certainty to collect another set of winners' tankards.

But in recent years the fickle finger of fate has tended to pick out the underdogs as those to emerge triumphant from Wembley.

In the F.A. Cup Finals in particular. Southampton in 1976; Manchester United, who beat us 2-1, in 1977; and Ipswich in 1978.

And, of course, Forest were rated as underdogs against us in the League Cup last year; although the Final at Wembley was indecisive and the issue wasn't settled until the replay at Old Trafford.

Unimpressive

Southampton, no disrespect intended, are not as fashionable as some clubs, partly through geography, and chiefly because comparatively their history is unimpressive.

Saints' "roll of honour" consists of only one major success: that F.A. Cup in 1976. Its significance is important, though. For it was gained under manager Lawrie McMenemy, a man whose stature in the game increases with every season.

I cannot praise Lawrie enough. He has had many attractive offers to manage far more glamorous outfits — Leeds United, for instance — and turned them down in order to continue his work with the club who gave him his big chance.

An example of his vision and courage is the way he systematically



dismantled the 1976 side and built one with a fine blend of youth and experience. Nick Holmes, that tireless midfield man and full-back David Peach are the only survivors.

In the two-legged Semi-Final with Leeds, Saints got through simply through dogged determination at Elland Road, pulling back a two-goal deficit, and keeping danger man Tony Currie out of the game as much as possible at The Dell.

I suspect the opponent they'll concentrate on most at Wembley will be John Robertson, who can be devastating, particularly with his crosses.

A controversial aspect of the League Cup Final has been that, unlike almost every other Cup competition I can think of, extra-time has not been played. I was pleased to see the situation remedied in last season's Final, even though we still had to go to a replay with Forest.

Those in favour argue that at the end of 90 minutes players are physically and emotionally drained and therefore incapable of giving of their best.

But some of the most dramatic, exciting moments occur in those

additional 30 minutes: incidents that live forever in the minds of fans and players.

In the 1970 League Cup Final extra-time was played by Manchester City and West Brom, with the light blues coming out on top after a thrilling display of fighting spirit and attacking football.

The organisers owe it to the fans, many of whom have travelled hundreds of miles and spent hard-earned savings, to reinstate extra-time so that there is a strong probability of a result.

Players do not feel the same about collecting medals at another venue. I know that Old Trafford was no substitute for Wembley.

Leeds United players have little time to dwell over the fact that they failed one step from Wembley, for while Southampton battle it out with Forest they will be taking on Liverpool at Elland Road.

I rate this as one of our most difficult away fixtures remaining, for under new manager Jimmy Adamson, Leeds are being restored to a great side. This Yorkshire v Lancashire clash looks set to be as fiercely contested as those in the days of Bill Shankly and Don Revie.

Leeds have improved so much they have a good chance of finishing high enough in the table to qualify for the U.E.F.A. Cup competition next season.

Improvements have been made in other directions, too. The ground is now amongst the best-equipped in the First Division. The pitch has been moved 20 yards nearer to "their Kop" — the enclosure where their most fanatical supporters gather — and thanks to a very efficient form of undersoil heating they were able to continue to stage matches during the spell of bad weather.

This is a game neither side wants to lose. If we do succeed in coming away from Elland Road with a point towards a title-claiming total, we'll be well-pleased.

England '76

What was the England side which beat Italy 3-2 in New York in the U.S. Bicentennial Tournament in the summer of 1976?

GEORGE PULLIANO,
MALTA

England lined-up like this, George — Rimmer (Arsenal), Clement (Q.P.R.), Doyle (Manchester City), Thompson (Liverpool), Neal (Liverpool), Towers (Sunderland), Brooking (West Ham), Wilkins (Chelsea), Channon (Southampton), Royle (Manchester City), Hill (Manchester United).

Joe Corrigan (Manchester City), and Mick Mills (Ipswich), came on as subs for Rimmer and Neal.

Channon (two) and Thompson scored for England; Graziani (two) replying for the Italians.

SHORT PASSES

• Cardiff play at Ninian Park; Wrexham at the Racecourse Ground; and Wigan at Springfield Park.

(RONNIE FJELLVANG, Norway)

• Preston's 26-0 victory over Hyde on 15th October, 1887, is an all-time record F.A. Cup victory.

(TUOMO ILTANEON, Finland)

• Penalty-kicks, introduced by the Irish F.A. in 1890-91, were adopted by the Football League the following season.

(JAMES TARRAN, Leeds)

• Peter Shilton made his full England debut in the 3-1 win over East Germany at Wembley on 25th November, 1970; Ray Clemence in the 1-0 win over Wales in Cardiff on 15th November, 1972.

(PETER LYMAN, Milton Keynes)

• Stranraer's record gate is 6,500 (v. Rangers; Scottish F.A. Cup; 24th January, 1948).

(PAUL JONES, Stockport)

• In the 1978 Liverpool v. FC Bruges European Cup Final, Steve Heighway came on as sub for Jimmy Case in the 63rd minute.

(IAN ROSS, Wick)

• Stuart Pearson joined Manchester United from Hull on 11th May, 1974. He's scored five goals in 15 full

internationals for England.

(RANDAL DEVINE, Eire)

• In the first World Cup Final (1930), Uruguay beat Argentina 4-2. Semifinals were Argentina 6, U.S.A. 1; Uruguay 6, Yugoslavia 1.

(DAREN SMITH, Dorking)

• Goalkeeper Bert Trautmann broke his neck in the 3-1 F.A. Cup Final win over Birmingham in 1956 — but happily recovered well enough eventually to tot-up 508 League games for Manchester City.

(MICHAEL CROMACK, Merton)

• Q.P.R.'s first League game ended in a 1-2 home defeat by Watford in Division Three (South) on 28th August, 1920.

(STEPHEN BROWN, Andover)

THE most predictable thing about British weather is its sheer unpredictability. This season is already a jumbled, chaotic schedule comprising outstanding fixtures, lop-sided bank-balances, misleading League tables and very worried administrators.

All of which poses the repeated, and as yet unanswered question: should the English season take a two month winter break?

It is too easy to make hysterical judgments while standing up to your shins in snow or watching one leg shoot away at frightening right-angles to the other on wicked sheets of ice. So those people who quickly shout "Yes" or "No" usually do so because they continue to base their decisions on long-standing convictions and prejudices.

The problem is that many of their reasons are either out of date or lacking the concrete foundation provided only by knowledge of all the facts.

SHOOT examines these facts and presents balanced views of the situation. This view neither agrees nor disagrees with the winter break suggestion. It simply states the cases — both for the defence and the prosecution. We leave the jury — our readers — to arrive at their verdict.

The problems which beset our football are clear for everybody to see. Unlike European and Scandinavian countries, where weather conditions are much more predict-



budgets, smaller debts, a more consistent cash-flow through turnstiles to the bank. Never lose sight of the fact that the money taken on the gate for a Saturday match often represents a club's finances to cover two weeks of bills. Apart from the 'visitors fee' acquired from away games, each club must work on the basis of a fortnight's outlay from a week's takings.

Repeated postponements have left some League clubs in serious financial trouble. A winter break would also make for better playing conditions. Remove the lottery element of playing on packed snow, slush and muck puddles or jagged ice, and you must be left with fairer results, more representative of the true playing ability of every team — be it good or bad. People do not want such "levellers". Because bad conditions can and do level down, only down. Good players are reduced to the level of ordinary.

You are also left with an overall higher standard of football, possible fewer injuries and a two-month period during the season when injuries have time to heal, thus ensuring most clubs the services of a higher percentage of their best players.

The fans would benefit because they would watch their football in better weather.

One imagines that football pitches would also benefit from a rest, allowing concentrated rolling, levelling and general treatment

**As football recovers from the worst winter for 16 years
SHOOT investigates . . .**

The case FOR and AGAINST a mid-season break

able throughout the year, the British Isles must come to terms with varied and often unexpected climates.

This winter has been more severe than most.

But one fact is clear. Winters such as this one wreck organised sport. Football suffers badly. Postponed matches cost clubs thousands of pounds in lost revenue, put unfair pressure on teams chasing honours or fighting for survival and generally lead to a drop in the overall standard of football provided for the paying customers — the supporters.

Reasons abound why we should take winter by the throat and divide the season into two halves.

A break would considerably lessen the threat of postponements, lost revenue, fixture pile-ups, and organisational chaos.

The thousands of fans who pay hard-earned money for rail or car expenses only to discover they have travelled possibly 200 to 500 miles for nothing, are rarely so well off that they can repeat that journey months later and often in midweek. A break would go a long way towards guaranteeing that supporters do not lose out.

The knowledge that the season could be planned steadily and safely would lead to tighter

VIEWS FROM THE STARS



TREVOR CHERRY
(Leeds United)

I am against any break in the season because it is impossible to judge our weather. This season has been severely hit, but during my career I've seen snow in late March and beautiful weather during February. You could find your break becoming a farce if the pitches were playable.



ROY McFARLAND
(Derby County)

I don't think our game warrants a break. What does puzzle me, however, is the fact that we have a number of free Saturdays up to Christmas. Then we face a backlog. But the clubs who really suffer are the successful ones — the likes of Liverpool, West Bromwich Albion and Nottingham Forest — clubs with European and Cup commitments.

You have to think of the fans. They are used to our game, our weather and our style of football. I doubt if they would welcome a break.

from expert groundstaff.

The opportunity to take stock of your situation is also an important factor in the argument for a winter break. Clubs could analyse their achievements up to the halfway mark, calculate what must be done to either sustain or improve form and results and decide on entering the transfer market armed with the knowledge that their financial situation is that bit more sound.

And players and supporters alike might well enjoy a break. Time to shake off any creeping staleness, recharge batteries and return to the season with renewed appetites.

Here would be the ideal opportunity for clubs to earn their close-season revenue from tours in mid-season or to organise an in-door tournament of six-a-side football, thus providing the public with an alternative to cold, wet, forbidding terraces.

So, you might begin to believe that no arguments against a winter break could stand comparison with all those factors in favour. But judge not in haste. Because the arguments against the idea go to show just how complex a question this is for the football authorities and clubs to answer.

Cricket attracts considerable crowds — especially since the introduction of sponsored knockout competitions. A large percentage of any one crowd watching a county match would also be found at a League ground during the football season. Extend the season to take in a winter break and you immediately demand that fans choose between two sports. As they can watch football from August to May without forsaking cricket, many fans might decide to miss the back end of an extended season, rely on television, radio and newspapers for their contact, and turn to what is a short and equally weather-spoiled cricket season. Both sports would lose revenue.



Everton's Martin Dobson (left) and Liverpool's Steve Heighway prefer cricket to football in the summer.

Further loss of revenue would be incurred through the absence of those fans whose summer holidays are taken in the early part of the summer.

So the attractive thought of more organised finance is immediately darkened by the prospect of smaller gates.

Clubs make a considerable bulk of their revenue from Bank Holiday matches. Local 'derby' games or otherwise unattractive fixtures usually draw larger crowds when scheduled for certain seasonal dates. Lose those and you risk losing thousands of pounds.

Whatever way you juggle with the calendar, a winter break can mean only one thing — a shorter close-season. Players are entitled to holidays too, you know. And what risk do clubs run of discovering they have bad pitches after

three seasons of reduced summer rest, sunshine and re-seeding?

Just as bad weather can make nonsense of football, so, too, can weather that sees a merciless sun beating down on professional athletes attempting to play one of the world's most fast, competitive sports. It could take players a number of years to adjust to what would amount to a change of playing climate.

Ask any successful club to name the major factors behind their form and they will list continuity among their replies. Break up the season for six weeks or two months and many clubs would lose their sharpness, match-fitness and momentum. Players would have to build up again to a playing peak, to the situation where clubs such as Liverpool and Leeds achieved their greatest triumphs when faced with two games a week and possibly more than 60 games in a season.

Winning, say many players and managers, is habitual. So is losing.

Perhaps the strugglers would enjoy time to pick up the pieces and start again because they would base their plans on the principle that anything new must be an improvement. But the in-form winning teams would certainly not agree.

There are those paying customers who believe that the sheer variety of conditions under which football in Britain is played are part and parcel of the attraction. This conviction that we enjoy the toughest, longest and most competitive League football in the world is largely based on this weather factor.

Somewhere along the line the game would lose those hard-liners who derive genuine excitement from watching the game played in demanding conditions. This "we can play in any weather" belief does contain an important vein of validity. Many European teams are unable to overcome British teams on British soil, and many complain that they do not have to play their football on pitches which vary so much throughout a season.

Clubs could — and some would — argue that by seeking the sun and abandoning the true British season, we could dilute the very nature of our success against foreign opposition.

It is difficult not to keep coming back to money. But one must ask how the Pools companies would view two months of inactivity during which they could be forced to find an alternative source of maintaining their annual income from punters? And how much might be lost from the increasing television revenue with Jimmy Hill and Brian Moore left to contemplate their panels for two months?

And, suddenly, it all becomes clear — we cannot have a winter break. Or is it that clear. Because you might think yet again if you go back and read those arguments for a break.

You are the jury. SHOOT awaits your verdict.



PETER BARNES
(Manchester City)

It would be ideal to stop the game at Christmas and start again in mid-February. Then the worst of the bad winters would be over. As it is we have seen some comedy games this season. Only we, the players, don't find them very funny. The standard of football drops and nobody benefits.

The fans do not get value for money. They want to see skilful, competitive football, not ice-skating.



KENNY DALGLISH
(Liverpool)

How can you give a sensible "yes" or "no" to a move such as this without ever trying it out? There are good arguments for and against, but we simply don't know the truth. I have reservations, but I admit that it works in Europe where some countries shut down their season when the bad weather comes.

The only way to know is to try it — even for one season. Then we can all make judgments.



CLIVE WOODS
(Ipswich Town)

I would rather carry on throughout the season. Any type of break would spoil the season. Players would take time to build up their rhythm after weeks laid off. And the fans would have to do the same in terms of enthusiasm. Football as we play it is a tried and tested system. It works in good weather and bad. It is the same for all of us, so the best come out on top.



LIAM BRADY
(Arsenal)

I dislike playing on frozen pitches because the game suffers as a spectacle. And I am equally opposed to a break because it would spoil the excitement and build up. So my suggestion is that we begin the season in April and end it at Christmas.

People argue that the fans would not come and watch football in the summer, but I disagree. I believe they would enjoy the better conditions and they would be very keen on night games during the summer.

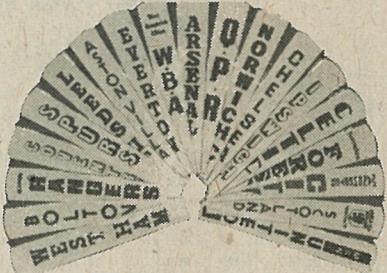
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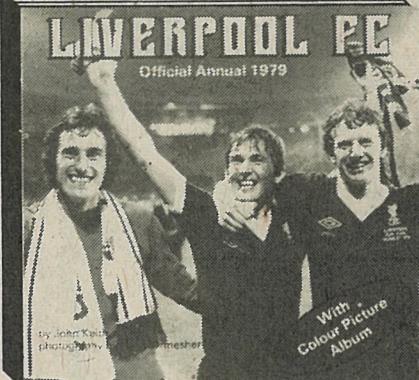
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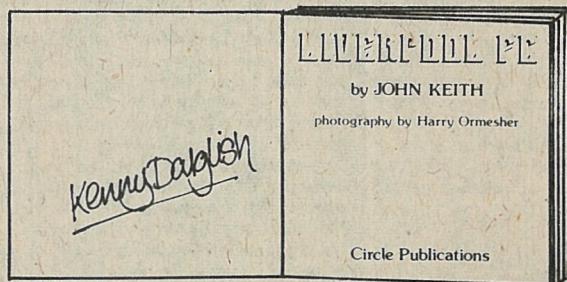
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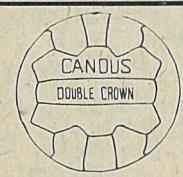
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WELCOME.

LANGLEY: This is an important game for both teams for we are both in desperate need of points, Glenn. We have a lot of ground to make up, but a couple of victories will soon put us back with the bunch above us. We proved we can rise to the occasion and produce an outstanding performance when we drew with Liverpool at Stamford Bridge a few weeks ago. What we have to do now is to maintain that standard in every match.

ROEDER: You are right about the importance of the match, Tom. It's an old cliche to describe it as a 'four-pointer' — but that's exactly what it is. We know you are capable of testing anyone on your day. But we are a better side than our League position indicates. On the day you drew with Liverpool we were beaten 2-1 at Everton — a travesty that. For we played some brilliant football, were every bit as good as Everton and when you consider how well we had done against a team going for the First Division title it's ridiculous to think we are fighting hard against relegation.



TOMMY LANGLEY

BIG MATCH

CROSSTALK

between Chelsea striker Tommy Langley and Q.P.R. defender Glenn Roeder.

CHELSEA v. Q.P.R.

Stamford Bridge, Saturday March 17th

LANGLEY: Every game is going to be like a Cup Final for us now. You get no favours when you are down at the bottom. We have home matches against some of the other struggling sides after we have played you. So it's important to start with a win over you to give us all a confidence booster.

ROEDER: You are right, Tom. We have got more away games in our run in to make life even more difficult. But we are still confident we can pull clear of trouble. All we need is a few breaks — and that's something we have not been getting. They say things go against you when you are down at the bottom, and that's certainly proving the case with us at Rangers. We've had some atrocious luck and been the victims of some questionable refereeing decisions.

LANGLEY: What you need in our situation is fighting spirit — and our lads are all giving that. No one is happy at the position we are in and everyone is doing his utmost to get us out of it.

ROEDER: The same applies to us, Tom. The First Division is the only place to be — and we intend to stay in it if it is humanly possible. I had a couple of seasons fighting

against relegation when I was with Orient. And the thought of dropping into a lower grade of football is horrible.

LANGLEY: Talking of Orient, Glenn, brings back painful memories. It hurt us when you came to Chelsea with them for an F.A. Cup Fifth Round replay last season — and knocked us out. In fact I've played against you many times — even in my schoolboy days and can never remember beating you. It's time that nonsense stopped. And there's no time like the present to do it.

ROEDER: I think you are being unduly modest there, Tom. I know we have had some rare old battles over the years, and I'm sure the honours have been even. It's always a pleasure to play against you, mate. I know you will be going like the clappers — but strictly within the rules. There's never been any aggro when you are in opposition — just honest to goodness endeavour. I know your strengths and weaknesses just as you know mine — after all we were on the *SAME* side last summer, when we toured the Far East with England 'B'. I am really looking forward to playing against you again.

LANGLEY: Should be a cracking game, Glenn. And we go to it comforted by recent results against Rangers. We took three points off them last season — and

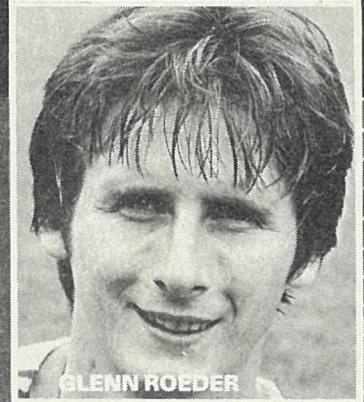
as we have already drawn at your place this season look set to do the same thing again. So I'm sure your lads can't be looking forward to it.

ROEDER: Can't speak for the other lads, Tom, but personally I can't

wait for the game to start. You have already mentioned that we knocked Chelsea out of the F.A. Cup last season. We also did well against them during their spell in the Second Division. I regard you as my 'lucky team' and see no reason why that luck should not hold on Saturday. No, I've usually got a good result against Chelsea and expect to do the same this time — when our need for it is urgent.

LANGLEY: Sorry to disappoint you, Glenn. But I am confident your luck is about to take a turn for the worse. I think we will win comfortably — by two or three goals.

ROEDER: We'll see, Tom, we'll see. Personally I think there will be only one goal in it — and Q.P.R. will score that. One thing is for sure. There's a lot at stake — apart from local prestige — and the match should crackle with atmosphere. I look forward to seeing you on Saturday, Tom, and will let you buy me a drink afterwards. And it will be my round next season when we play you again — in the First Division.



GLENN ROEDER



Chelsea's David Stride (right) clears off the line during their meeting at Loftus Road this season.

UNITED NATIONS of Old Trafford





Go around the Manchester United dressing-room and you'll hear a variety of accents from all parts of the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland.

United are a truly international club, not just because they're arguably the most popular name in world football... but because they are represented regularly at international level.

Not just at playing level, either. Coach Tommy Cavanagh is right-hand man to Northern Ireland manager Danny Blanchflower, while Old Trafford boss Dave Sexton is in charge of the England Under-21's.

Most of the United first team squad are internationals at one level or another. Even Gary Bailey, the new goalkeeper, won an England

Under-21 cap last month against Wales. Here, we see just a few of the Manchester United international stars. They may be Old Trafford team-mates, but when they meet as international rivals the fact they are club-mates is forgotten. Steve Coppell was delighted to have been part of the England side that beat Northern Ireland 4-0 at Wembley, even if the Irish eyes of Tommy Cavanagh and Sammy McIlroy (not to mention Jimmy Nicholl and Chris McGrath, too) weren't smiling.

Gordon McQueen, dropped by Jock Stein last month, is out to win back his place in the Scotland squad. Our columnist hasn't had the happiest of seasons and may still not be 100 per cent fit after the injury that forced him to miss the World Cup. Few would doubt Gordon will be back, though.

Steve Coppell, who inspired England's first goal against Northern Ireland, seems to have established himself in Ron Greenwood's plans, while Mike Thomas realises that now, as a Manchester United star, all eyes will be on him when he plays for Wales. Sammy McIlroy is a much underrated player, and he'll want to show, like the other Irishmen at Wembley, the England defeat was just a minor setback.

BACK ROW: Tommy Cavanagh (Northern Ireland), Gordon McQueen (Scotland), Paddy Roche (Rep. of Ireland), Dave Sexton (England Under-21's). FRONT ROW: Steve Coppell (England), Mike Thomas (Wales), Sammy McIlroy (Northern Ireland).

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HATES TEETH THAT TURN
INTO UGLY MONSTERS!**

FRANK LANGEFORD -

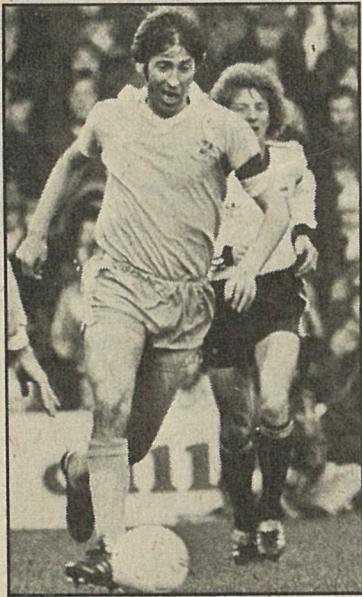
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NAME ADDRESS



When he has played he's looked ill at ease, one-paced and rather like a fish out of water.

Yet Malcolm Allison (below) is quick to leap to Deyna's defence, bearing in mind he didn't sign Deyna.

"Deyna's day will come," insists Allison.

"I believe once we get back to something like normal playing surfaces Kaziu will emerge as the world class performer we know he is.

"He possesses tremendous vision and has an outstanding ability to read a game. He rarely gives the ball away and he passes accurately. Before I came back to Maine Road the main criticisms of the team were that they gave the ball away and couldn't pass straight — so he must be valuable!

"I see him as the perfect deep-lying centre-forward, making his play and striking devastatingly down the middle. I'm convinced when he gets his confidence he'll

'DEYNA'S DAY WILL COME' says Malcolm Allison

THERE is nothing more cruel than the critical football fan — particularly the one who picks on a certain player and makes him the whipping boy every Saturday.

Terry Yorath knew the feeling when he was at Leeds. The crowd got on his back and played a large part in dictating his eventual move to Coventry City where he has been more appreciated.

Now striker Ray Hankin is feeling the brunt of the Elland Road crowd's verbal abuse — yet a year ago he was the hero with his 20 goals in the season.

When Leeds met Coventry recently Yorath was quick to defend Hankin and told him to try not to worry about the hostile reception he received.

John Pratt, at Tottenham, is another who has learned to live with constant cat-calls. As a 'local' he can cope with the problem but imagine what it must be like for a foreigner such as Manchester City's Kazimierz Deyna (above) when he 'gets the bird.'

There is no disputing Deyna has found it hard to settle into City's struggling side, and he has been as unhappy about his form as the fans.

But he must wonder what the commotion is all about when they vent their wrath on him as they have been doing at Maine Road.

The general malaise which has overtaken the club is a salient factor. Then, of course, there's a little matter of City spending £120,000 to bring Poland's World Cup skipper from Legia Warsaw — and the fans expect an awful lot of a man with such a big reputation.

So far Deyna has been in-and-out of the City side like a bird building its nest — and to be fair he hasn't had a chance to mould himself into the team's playing system.



score a lot of goals for us. He has a great shot, gets into good positions but at the moment is lacking in confidence near goal."

Allison recognises his immediate aim is to get Deyna to contribute more. The quicker pace of life in the First Division compared with Polish football has tended to make Deyna look slow and he hasn't come to terms with our typical game as yet.

"There is a language problem, but once he learns to understand basic football jargon he'll fit in smoothly and he'll look a completely different player."

City's fans hope so. In the local sporting pink there have been a flood of letters complaining about the form of Deyna and other expensive signings Paul Fitcher and Colin Viljoen.

There has even been a campaign to "get Mike Doyle back."

Doyle was a Manchester man who passionately cared about the fortunes of City, and the fans clearly feel no-one in the current City side has the same loyalty to the club as the former England defender now doing such a fine job with Stoke City.

'I would love to play in the United States' says BRUCE RIOCH



BRUCE Rioch, Derby County's former Scotland World Cup captain, wants to sample soccer in the United States.

Rioch (above, right) whose career has swept him from the heights of ecstasy to the depths of despair, has decided not to accept Birmingham City's offer of a four-month loan period at St. Andrews and now views the States as his next priority.

But because team-mates Gerry Daly and Steve Powell are already fixed up this summer, with Boston and Tulsa respectively, Rioch's hopes may be dashed. But he is used to coping with disappointments.

He said: "We have a lot to learn from the United States, especially the way they market and promote football. I want first-hand knowledge of their methods.

"But at the moment it looks as if I may have to miss out this summer. So I have anticipated just such a situation and booked myself in on a two-week F.A. full coaching badge course, followed by a two-week management course. Now is the time for me to get to grips with this side of my career."

Yet Rioch's career reads like a switchback of fortunes — incredible ups and downs. With Luton Town, Aston Villa, Derby and Everton he has blazed a trail of spectacular long-range goals with a left-foot feared throughout football. League Championship success, Wembley, international caps and the ultimate honour — skippering his country in the World Cup Finals. Rioch has seen and done it all.

But setbacks he has also known. Like losing all four cartilages. Like losing his appendix and part of his stomach after contracting an illness during Derby's pre-season tour. Like losing his form just

when he needed it most ... in Argentina.

Some players could be overcome by such setbacks when they occur the wrong side of 30. Not Rioch. He accepts his international career is over. But he also points out in football nothing is taken for granted.

"When Jim Smith took me on loan to Birmingham, Derby's asking price was £50,000. Initially it was a trial period — for Brum and for me. I would have played about six games, but the bad weather meant I only played three times — all away from home.

"I was very surprised by the tremendous spirit and atmosphere throughout the club. Things looked good as far as I was concerned. But then we hit upon a stumbling block ... my desire to play in America.

"Jim Smith had already made his public stand concerning Trevor Francis and Pat Howard and their hopes of playing Stateside. So he was in a difficult position. He could hardly create two rules — one for me and one for them.

"Jim and I talked it over and I turned down his offer to extend my loan to four months. So from having one foot in St. Andrews and almost a new chapter to my career, I found myself back at the Baseball Ground, wondering what next lay in store."

Rioch's future, if he has a major say in it, appears to lie across the Atlantic. "Ideally, it would suit me best of all if an American club bought me outright then loaned me back to a League club. David Nish and Ray Lewington are now working on this basis. I can only assume Derby would want the same £50,000 transfer fee. But at the moment I must concentrate on holding my first team place and settling down for the rest of the season."

NEESKENS IS GOING— BUT WHERE, AND WHO SUCCEEDS HIM?

NOW that it is certain Johan Neeskens (right) will be leaving Barcelona at the end of the season, Spanish fans are asking two questions: where will he go ... and who will replace him?

The first question has some interesting possibilities. 'Nees' is asking £750,000 for a three-year contract; yet when you consider NO transfer fee is involved, the figure becomes less of an eye-opener.

On today's market, Neeskens, still only 27, must be worth £1 million (sorry if that figure has become boring, but ...). He's one of the few world-class players around and would settle down quickly into just about any type of football. Especially over here.

The £750,000 could, in fact, turn out to be a bargain and the top

SPANISH club Salamanca are having trouble keeping a roof over their heads this season. Three times gales have ripped the roof off their east stand, and it's not only a £140,000 repair bill that's worrying the Salamanca fans. The horrifying fact is that the latest accident occurred less than 24 hours after a home match, and the authorities estimate that if the roof were to fall during a game, the casualties would exceed 5,000.

BRAZIL still hope to stage the 1986 World Cup, should Colombia be unable to do so. Helenio Nunes, supremo of the Brazilian F.A., confirmed his country had applied to F.I.F.A. and when told that the United States may also be interested, replied: "We've won the World Cup three times; we must have priority."

NAMES IN THE NEWS



English clubs could certainly afford this figure. They'd be getting a proven midfield player who speaks good English and can be relied on to play well in just about every game.

Barcelona, naturally, want a big name to take over. Their idea is to 'parade' Johan's successor in some pre-season friendlies to recoup the fee.

But who? There are, quite simply, very few Superstars around for Barça to buy. They'd like Kevin Keegan (who wouldn't?), but he's signed a new contract with Hamburger SV.

Allan Simonsen of Borussia Mönchengladbach could join Kevin next season as he, too, is definitely moving on.

Hans Krankl, who joined Barça

this season, has recommended fellow Austrian Herbert Prohaska, but fans are hardly likely to flock to see him, good as he may be.

Barcelona have been to Argentina to look at teenager Diego Maradona, called the New Pele (he must be the 100th New Pele!), but again, he isn't a 'name'. The Catalan directors had to hang around in Argentina a while — Maradona's club were on a pre-season tour of Colombia. They hadn't checked!

French midfieler Michel Platini could be the eventual successor to Neeskens, although after a disappointing World Cup even he isn't really a Superstar outside of his own country.

It's a sign of the times when one of Europe's richest clubs is struggling to find a top player to sign.

WORLDWIDE

COMPILED BY CHRIS DAVIES

TEMPERAMENT SHOULD BE A KEY FACTOR

ALTHOUGH I would welcome it, I doubt if Osvaldo Ardiles will be elected Player of the Year by his fellow professionals this weekend. As the P.F.A. is bitterly opposed to foreign players in the League it would hardly be a good 'political' decision for the Argentinian to win, much as he deserves it for what he has given to our football this season.

Instead, the players will 'play safe' by electing Liam Brady or Tony Currie. Brady is a superb player, prob-

ably the best midfieler in the League, yet it will be a farce if he is given the trophy as he was sent-off against Hajduk Split for fighting and missed the next round, against Red Star; Arsenal lost this and many Gunners' fans feel Brady's absence was the crucial factor. The point I'm making is that any Player of the Year must be judged by the highest standards and I can't see how someone, no matter how talented, can win the award in a season in which he was dismissed.

I've received a lot of nasty letters from Arsenal fans following my interview and flattering remarks about Ardiles, but as temperament and behaviour are very much part of a player's make-up, if the two North London stars are about equal on talent ... the Argentinian should get the nod for his approach to the game. I'm still confident the Football Writers will choose Ardiles as their Player of the Year.

AFTER 18 weeks of the Italian season 23 players had been sent off. The longest suspension was three weeks, for Boninsegna of Juventus; no player had been sent off twice.



THE harsh winter has meant virtually no football in Holland this year, so their season will have to be extended. Some clubs aren't very happy as it means they must forfeit lucrative foreign tours.



ROBERTO FANCIES A CHANGE

AS reported recently, Roberto, who was Brazil's centre-forward in the latter World Cup games in Argentina, would like a change of scenery. More specifically, from Brazil to Mexico. For about six months representatives of América from Mexico have been contacting both Roberto (above) and Vasco da Gama, where he plays now, but the negotiations still seem a bit tangled.

What makes them more difficult is that some time ago América bought Dirceu, also from Vasco and who also played for Brazil in the World Cup, and he hasn't adapted very well to Mexican conditions.

Dirceu has, in fact, been dropped from the team and has been having public rows with the team's manager and directors. So, América are a bit wary of investing a lot of money in another Brazilian player right now. But Roberto, who wants to go (he would get 15 per cent of the transfer price), hasn't been making things very easy for Vasco, where his contract has just expired.

REF FACES A LONG WAIT

LAST week I reported that Saverio Garonzi, chairman of Italian club Verona, had been banned by the authorities after insulting a referee following a defeat by Naples. Signor Garonzi apparently accused the ref of being biased, 'giving' the opposition a penalty.

The ref, Gino Menicucci, applied to the Italian Referees' Association to take legal action against Signor Garonzi and a libel case will be heard in court.

However, our correspondent in Italy assures me that because of the 'speed' at which such cases are decided over there, the referee will have a long wait before his case is actually heard.

GOAL-SHY WONDERS

THE severe winter has affected League programmes in most of Europe, and in many countries football is only now stuttering back into action. However, here's the latest list of Goal-Shy Wonders — the teams who specialise in 0-0 draws and 1-0 wins and therefore pile up more points than goals.

Normally at this stage of the season the list begins to thin out a little because the odds are that at some stage of the season even goal-shy teams manage to knock in a few goals to boost their tally. But this year, the list is still heavily populated and more and more teams seem to perfect the art of producing low-scoring games.

Here's how the list reads:

Austria	A. Salzburg
Belgium	R. Antwerp,
Bulgaria	Waregem, Berchem
Czechoslovakia	Lokomotiv Sofia,
East Germany	CSKA Sofia
England	Tatran Presov
France	None
Greece	Forest
Holland	None
Hungary	Panahiki, OFI Crete
Italy	NEC, Maastricht, VV Venlo, PEC
Luxembourg	Pecs Dosza,
Poland	Szkeszervar
Portugal	Catanzaro, Perugia, Napoli, Avellino, Fiorentina, Roma
Rumania	Beggen, Rumelange
Scotland	Legia Warsaw, Slask, Wroclaw, Lodz
Spain	Famalicao, Estoril, Sporting Lisbon, Barreirense, Academico
Switzerland	Baia Mare, Olimpia
Turkey	Partick, Rangers
West Germany	None
Yugoslavia	Trabzonspor, Diyabarkirspor, Galatasaray, Eskisherispor, Orduspor, Demirspor, Kirikale, Zonguldakspor, Samsunspor

Buducnost, Rijeka

RIVALS DRAWN TOGETHER

THERE'S dismay in Argentina and Brazil following the draw for the Preliminary Round of the South American Championship. The two countries, who finished first and third in the World Cup, have been drawn in the same group — which means that one of them won't be in the Finals whatever happens. Here's the complete draw:

Group 1 Colombia, Chile, Venezuela.

Group 2 Argentina, Brazil, Bolivia.

Group 3 Uruguay, Paraguay, Ecuador.

The winners of each group will join defending Champions Peru in the Semi-Finals.

Unlucky 13

THE Chile juvenile team is in trouble. They are accused of falsifying official Government identity cards, lowering the dates of birth of players to enable them to play in the South American junior tournament.

Thirteen players, plus the manager and two other officials are under arrest and the matter being investigated by the Justice Ministry.

NOT every £1 million transfer is a success. AC Milan paid that sum last summer to Bologna for Stefano Chiodi to increase their striking power. As I write, Stefano had scored six goals ... and five of those were penalties. To make matters worse, top scorer was Aldo Maldera — a full-back, with seven goals.

REAL MADRID'S 29-year-old Danish striker Henning Jensen is likely to leave the Spanish club when his contract expires in June. Jensen, who rose to fame in the 'great' Borussia Mönchengladbach side, says he'll probably return to Denmark, where he'll be able to keep a closer eye on his business interests.



Former West Germany captain Berti Vogts has an unusual testimonial planned for May 15th in Mönchengladbach. He aims to field a side of nine forwards; just goalkeeper Sepp Maier and himself will be defenders! Play-

ers who have said they'd take part are Allan Simonsen, Henning Jensen, Mario Kempes, Herbert Wimmer and even Günter Netzer has agreed to play "until I can't breathe any more."

'I WANT TO LEAVE BIRMINGHAM'

SAYS ALBERTO TARANTINI

BIRMINGHAM City's Argentinean star Alberto Tarantini has made some explosive comments in an interview published by Spanish sports paper 'Tot Barca'. The 23-year-old World Champion defender reveals he's not happy in England.

"I've got to talk to the manager," says Tarantini, "and sort the whole thing out. Whatever happens I'm definitely leaving England. The people here are all very nice, but the English character is very cold and I just can't put up with it any longer. The atmosphere is very different, and I certainly felt much more at home when I was in Spain last summer. Over there, I didn't have any language problems and the people are much warmer, like they are back home in Argentina."

Tarantini has had mixed fortunes since signing for Blues at the beginning of the season. Like so many World Cup players, he's suffered a slight "hangover" from the efforts and the pressures, and his form has suffered accordingly.

But this is hardly surprising when a player has just uprooted his life and moved to a different country. It obviously takes time to settle in. And even if some of his strong tackling has angered fans, most are agreed the £250,000 fee was money well spent in today's inflated transfer market.

"I can't deny money was the main reason for me coming to England," Alberto told the Spaniards. "I'm going to collect about £50,000 if I play 20 League games with the club. But you can also get good money in other

countries, and I'd like to play in Spain."

The Argentinian had been training with Barcelona for a month before the Birmingham deal cropped up, and Tarantini insists: "I'd like to go back to Barcelona. I'm sure I'd be a superstar over there. They were going to sign me last summer, but people started poking around in my private life and made it very difficult for me to get a residence permit over there. I don't know why people are against me — after all, what have Kempes, Bertoni and Ardiles got that I haven't? We were all in the team which won the World Cup, and what's more, I played in every game. I'm convinced my future is in Spain. The Barcelona directors hinted to me I could be Johan Neeskens' replacement when he goes at the end of the season, and I'm just waiting for the right offer to come along."

To add to the mystery, River Plate of Buenos Aires have registered Tarantini as a player for this season. In Argentina, a player must be registered at the start of the season, even though he may not be joining them until the half-way stage.

With Birmingham staring Division Two in the face, it's been a hard time for Tarantini — a World Cup winner who's now just a whisker away from being a Second Division player. However, it could be he'll be off at the end of the season, either to Spain or back home to Argentina.

SHOOT tried to contact Blues' boss Jim Smith for his comments, but he was unavailable.

Tarantini the Birmingham player... and (inset) training with Barcelona last August.





"John Gidman is carried off after injuring an ankle."

I'M one of the few players who has been glad of the winter freeze-up. Mind you, that's a purely selfish opinion! I've been sidelined for around three months with an ankle injury and then a cartilage operation, but because of the severe weather I missed just a handful of games instead of something like 12 or 13.

It's great to be back in action. I made my comeback in the reserves at Villa on February 28th and scored twice in our 4-0 win over Preston. Touch wood, there has been no

reaction since then and it was a real boost to line-up in the derby against Birmingham City a few days later.

After so much bad luck over the past couple of seasons, I was somewhat apprehensive before playing again. I didn't believe anything else could go wrong, but . . .

Anyway, I had no such thoughts when I was out there on the field. When you are actually playing, all other thoughts are put in the back of your mind and you just concentrate on the game in hand.

I've written it many times before,

'15 MONTHS

ANDY GRAY
Writes for you

but Villa have had no luck at all with injuries. Do you know it's 15 months since Ron Saunders could pick a full-strength team?

We've had five cartilage victims this season, alone; even the manager needs a cartilage op, but must wait until the summer as he's too busy just now!

I don't know whether it's just a coincidence, or whether we should take a close look at our training, but the injuries have severely hindered our progress. For the first time since I arrived here, Villa had nothing to play for in February. Out of the Cups, out of the League race and not in Europe. It's not a pleasant feeling, but our aim now is to ensure a place in next season's U.E.F.A. Cup by finishing as high in the League as possible.

It's difficult to assess this season. I wouldn't say we're failures, as our injuries have obviously affected us. To be too critical would be unfair, although I must say our home form has too often left much to be desired and I can understand the frustration and impatience of our fans.

The supporters pay their money so they're entitled to "have a go", yet overall they've been pretty good to us. No one is more disappointed than the players that we aren't in there challenging for one of the pots.

The squad has been strengthened this winter and three players, in particular, have made their mark. Ken Swain, from Chelsea, has added bite to the attack, so has young Joe Ward, who came from Clyde.

Joe's first two games for Villa were both at Old Trafford, the first in the reserves and then, a week later, came his first team debut against Manchester United.

I was sorry to see Gordon Smith leave for Spurs as "Smudger" was a close friend, but Gary Williams has taken his chance well and is a fine prospect. I reckon he could become one of the top left-backs

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around if he continues to progress.

My personal ambitions for this season are to help Villa into Europe and then play for Scotland in the British Championship, the friendly against Argentina and then against Norway in the European Championship.

Again being selfish, I wasn't too unhappy that our game with Belgium was snowed off. I've had so many bad breaks regarding Scotland that I felt I was due for some luck! I've worked tremendously hard to get back into the Scottish team after my suspension and Jock Stein gave me my chance again earlier this season.

I had a letter from the S.F.A. saying I hadn't been forgotten and to let them know when I was fit again. I now hope I can keep my place when the domestic Championship comes round in May.

I've never played in the British Championship, and there is no reason why I shouldn't be 100 per cent fit with plenty of games under my belt by then.

Off the park I've been busy, too, with my new business venture. It's a night club called The Holy City Zoo

(but don't ask me why!). The idea came about when a couple of my friends expressed interest in such a place. I was looking for something to secure my future and after taking professional advice — and getting the o.k. from Ron Saunders — it was decided the three of us become partners.

It's more of a night club than a disco, members only, and I hope it will be used by many of the Midlands professionals. I want it to be a place where they can relax without being bothered too much, and before anyone raises an eyebrow let me assure you I shall be very much a silent partner.

I'll be at the club maybe once a week, but I shan't be doing a George Best. It's strictly a business venture and I'll probably be there just at the weekend.

It's a way of reassuring Villa fans I see my future at Villa Park, because I would hardly go into business if I wasn't settled in the area.

Why a night club and not something "safer"? A sports shop, for instance, isn't such a good investment and after giving the subject much thought, the club seemed the



"Ken Swain has settled in well."

right move. It's early days yet, but I've been very excited what with my comeback and the opening of the club.

This Saturday (March 17th) we face Manchester City at Maine Road, where I don't believe I've been on the winning side.

City have had all sorts of problems on and off the pitch this season, for one reason or another, but they have too many good players to struggle for much longer.

It seems as if too many of their key players have been off-form at the same time, but even though City's home record is poor, a game at Maine Road is never easy.

Join me again in a fortnight.

RESULTS . . . SCORERS . . . TEAM LINE-UPS

MONDAY, FEB. 5

F.A. CUP

Fourth Round

BRISTOL R. (1) 1 (White)
CHARLTON (0) 0

Bristol R: Thomas; Day, Bater, Harding, Taylor, Prince, Dennehy, Williams, White, Staniforth (Mabbutt), Hendrie.

Charlton: Johns; Shaw, Campbell, Brisley, Shipperley, Berry, Powell (Warman), Robinson, Flanagan, Madden, Gritt.

COLCHESTER (1) 1 (Gough)

NEWPORT (0) 0

Colchester: Walker; Cook, Wright, Hodge, Wignall, Dowman, Foley, Gough, Packer, Lee, Allinson.

Newport: Plumley; Walden, Byrne, Davies, Oakes, Lowndes, Thompson, Sinclair (Relish), Goddard, Bruton, Vaughan.

Postponed: Burnley v. Sunderland; Oldham v. Leicester.

Replay: Wolves v. Newcastle.

Scottish Cup: Postponed: Ayr v. Q. of South; Dumbarton v. Alloa; Morton v. St. Johnstone; Rangers v. Motherwell; Stirling v. Partick; Hibs v. Dunfermline.

TUESDAY, FEB. 6

UNDER-21 INTERNATIONAL

WALES (0) 0

ENGLAND (0) 1 (Hoddle) at Swansea

Wales: Thomas (M) (Bristol R.); Jones (Bristol R.); Aizlewood (Luton), Phillips (Swansea), Dwyer (Cardiff), Nicholas (Palace), Lowndes (Newport), Clark (Derby), Walsh (Palace), Charles (Swansea), Thomas (G) (Leeds) (sub: Doyle (Preston)).

England: Bailey (Man. Utd.) (sub: Woods (Nottm. F.)); Owen (Man. C.), Gilbert (Palace) (sub: Osman (Ipswich)), Wright (Everton), Cowans (Villa), Sansom (Palace), Statham (W.B.A.), Blissett (Watford), Robson (W.B.A.), Reeves (Norwich), Hoddle (Tottenham).

SECOND DIVISION

LUTON 0

STOKE 0

Luton: Lawson; Stephens, Carr, Donaghy, Turner, Price, West, Hill, Taylor, Hatton, Moss. Stoke: Jones; Dodd, Scott (Busby), Kendall, Smith, Doyle, Randall, Irvine, O'Callaghan, Crooks, Richardson.

SHEFF. UTD. (1) 1 (Smith)

FULHAM (0) 1 (Margerrison pen.)

Sheff. U: Conroy; Calvert, Speight, Franks, McPhail, Matthews, Anderson, Smith, Stainrod, Sabella, Hamson.

Fulham: Peyton; Strong, Lock, Bullivant, Money, Banton, Davies, Beck, Guthrie, Margerrison, Marinello.

THIRD DIVISION

ROtherham (2) 2 (Phillips, Finney pen.)

SOUTHEND (1) 1 (Dudley)

Rotherham: McAlister, Forrest, Breckin, Stancliffe, Green, Flynn, Finney, Phillips, Gwyther, Smith, Crawford.

Southend: Cawston; Stead, Yates, Cusack, Hadley, Moody, Morris, Pountney, Parker, Dudley, Fell (Laverick).

WALSALL (1) 2 (Austin, McDonough)

BLACKPOOL (0) 1 (Kellow)

Walsall: Turner, Harrison, Caswell, Jones, Serella, Sbragia, Birch, Waddington, Austin, McDonough, Macken.

Blackpool: Hesford; Malone, Pashley, Thompson (Sermanni), Suddaby, McEwan, Kellow, Ronson, Jones, Davidson, Weston.

Postponed: Sheff. Wed. v. Hull.

FOURTH DIVISION

ALDERSHOT (2) 2 (Dungworth, Brodie)

READING (2) 2 (Lewis, Bowman pen.)

Aldershot: Johnson, Howitt, Wooler, Dixon, Youlden, Jopling, Crosby, Brodie, Needham, Dungworth, McGregor (Longhorn). Reading: Death; Peters, White, Bowman, Hicks, Bennett, Earles, Hetzke, Kearney, Lewis, Wanklyn (Sanchez).

BOURNEMOUTH (2) 3 (Scott, Brown, R., Mac-Dougall)

PORT VALE (0) 1 (Brown, R. o.g.)

Bournemouth: Allen, Cunningham, Miller, Impey, Brown (R.), Barton, Borthwick, Mac-Dougall, Scott, Lennard (Brown, K.), Johnson.

Port Vale: Dance, Keenan, Bentley, Delgado, Harris, Hawkins, Todd, Farrell, Wright, Chamberlain, Elsby (Sinclair).

CREWE 0
HEREFORD 0

Crewe: Caswell; Purdie, Dulson, Nicholls, Bowles, Bevan, Davies, Roberts, Nelson, Warrick, Robertson.

Hereford: Hughes; Price, Burrows, Cornes, Hunt, Emery, Feeley, Stephens, Crompton (Jones), Gould, Holmes (W.).

Postponed: Barnsley v. Scunthorpe; Bradford C. v. Wigan; Darlington v. Northampton.

F.A. CUP Fourth Round: Postponed: Burnley v. Sunderland; Wolves v. Newcastle.

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 7

EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP

ENGLAND 1) 4 (Keegan, Latchford 2, Watson)

N. IRELAND (0) 0 at Wembley

England: Clemence (Liverpool); Neal (Liverpool), Mills (Ipswich), Currie (Leeds), Watson (Man. C.), Hughes (Liverpool), Keegan (Hamburg), Coppell (Man. U.), Latchford (Everton), Brooking (West Ham), Barnes (Man. C.).

Ireland: Jennings (Arsenal); Rice (Arsenal), Nelson (Arsenal), Nicholl (J) (Man. U.), Nicholl (C) (Southampton), McCreery (Man. U.), O'Neill (Nottm. F.), McIlroy (Man. U.), Armstrong (Tottenham), Caskey (Derby) (sub: Spence (Blackpool)), Cochrane (Middlesbrough) (sub: McGrath (Man. U.)).

Postponed: Scottish Cup: Ayr v. Q. of South; Dumbarton v. Alloa; Morton v. St. Johnstone; Queen's Park v. Clydebank; Rangers v. Motherwell.

THURSDAY, FEB. 8

Postponed: F.A. Cup: Oldham v. Leicester; Wolves v. Newcastle.

FRIDAY, FEB. 9

THIRD DIVISION

SHREWSBURY (2) 2 (Chapman, Atkins pen.)

SOUTHEND (0) 0

Shrewsbury: Wardle; King, Leonard, Turner, Griffin (Cross), Keay, Chapman, Atkins, Tong, Biggins, Maguire.

Southend: Cawston; Walker, Yates, Cusack, Hadley, Moody, Morris, Pountney, Parker, Dudley, Fell (Laverick).

WOLVES (1) 3 (Bell, Clarke, Patching)

SOUTHEND (0) 0

Wolves: Bradshaw; Palmer, Parkin, Daniel (Patching), McAlie, Berry, Hibbitt, Daley, Bell, Clarke, Carr.

Postponed: Bolton v. Liverpool; Nottm F v. Villa; WBA v. Chelsea.

CHARLTON (1) 2 (Robinson, Warman)

BLACKBURN (0) 0

Charlton: Johns; Campbell, Warman, Gritt, Shipperley, Berry, Powell, Robinson, Flanagan, Madden, Brisley.

Blackburn: Butcher, Fowler, Bailey, Metcalfe, Round, Fazackerley, Brotherston, Garner, Craig, Parkes, Birchenall.

C. PALACE (0) 1 (Walsh)

STOKE (0) 1 (Irvine)

Palace: Burridge; Hinshelwood, Sansom, Kember, Cannon, Gilbert, Nicholas, Murphy, Swindlehurst, Fenwick, Walsh.

Stoke: Jones; Dodd, Scott, Kendall, Smith, Doyle, Randall, Irvine, O'Callaghan (Busby), Crooks, Richardson.

Gordon Davies scored the winner for Fulham against Oldham.

SATURDAY, FEB. 10

FIRST DIVISION

ARSENAL 0

MIDDLESBROUGH 0

Arsenal: Jennings; Rice, Nelson, Talbot, O'Leary, Young, Brady, Sunderland, Stapleton, Price, Rix.

Middlesbrough: Stewart; Criggs, Johnson, Mahoney, Boam, McAndrew, Ashcroft (Hodgson), Proctor, Burns, Cummins, Armstrong.

BIRMINGHAM (0) 0

LEEDS (1) 1 (Gray, F. pen.)

Birmingham: Freeman; Page, Dennis, Towers, Gallagher, Tarantini, Barrowclough (Darke), Ainscow, Bertschin, Buckley, Dillon.

Leeds: Harvey; Cherry, Stevenson, Flynn, Hart, Madeley, Gray (F), Harris (Gray, E), Hawley, Currie, Graham.

COVENTRY (1) 1 (McDonald)

TOTTENHAM (2) 3 (Taylor 2, Lee)

Coventry: Blyth; Coop, McDonald, Blair, Holton (Hunt), Hagan, Yorath, Wallace, Ferguson, Powell, Hutchison.

Tottenham: Kendall; Naylor, Holmes, Hoddie, Lacy, Perryman, Pratt, Ardiles (Armstrong), Lee, Gorman, Taylor.

DERBY (0) 1 (Buckley)

NORWICH (0) 1 (Peters)

Derby: McKellar; Langan, Buckley, Riach, McFarland, Wicks, Carter, Powell, Duncan, Clark, Greenwood.

Norwich: Keelan; Bond, Davies, Ryan, Forbes, Powell, Neighbour, Reeves (Bennett), Robb, Robson, Peters.

EVERTON (1) 4 (King 3, Wright)

BRISTOL C (1) 1 (Whitehead)

Everton: Wood; Robinson, Higgins, Lyons, Wright, Ross, Todd, Dobson, Latchford, King, Thomas.

Bristol C: Shaw; Sweeney, Cooper, Gow, Rodgers, Hunter, Tainton, Ritchie, Royle, Cormack, Whitehead.

IPSWICH 0

SOUTHAMPTON 0

Ipswich: Cooper; Burley, Tibbott, Mills, Osman, Beattie, Wark, Muhran, Mariner, Brazil (Geddis), Woods.

Southampton: Gennoe; Golac, Peach (Baker), Williams, Nicholl, Waldron, Ball, Boyer, Hebbard, Holmes, Curran.

MAN. CITY (0) 0

MAN. UTD. (2) 3 (Coppell 2, Ritchie)

Man. C: Corrigan; Donachie, Power, Bell, Watson, Fletcher (P), Channon, Owen, Kidd, Hartford, Barnes.

Mar. U: Bailey; Greenhoff (B), Albiston, McIlroy, McQueen, Buchan, Coppell, Greenhoff (J), Ritchie, Macari, Thomas.

Q.P.R. (0) 3 (Roeder, Busby, Gillard)

WOLVES (1) 3 (Bell, Clarke, Patching)

Q.P.R.: Parkes; Clement, Gillard, Hollins, Howe (Busby), Roeder, Shanks, Francis, Hamilton, Bowles, Goddard.

Wolves: Bradshaw; Palmer, Parkin, Daniel (Patching), McAlie, Berry, Hibbitt, Daley, Bell, Clarke, Carr.

Postponed: Bolton v. Liverpool; Nottm F v. Villa; WBA v. Chelsea.

SECOND DIVISION

BRISTOL R (2) 2 (Prince, White)

CAMBRIDGE (0) 0

Bristol R: Thomas; Day, Bater, Harding, Taylor, Prince, Dennehy, Williams, White, Emmanuel, Hendrie.

Cambridge: Webster; Cozens, Smith, Stringer, Fallon, Leach (Graham), Christie, Spriggs, Garner, Finney, Biley.

CHARLTON (1) 2 (Robinson, Warman)

BLACKBURN (0) 0

Charlton: Johns; Campbell, Warman, Gritt, Shipperley, Berry, Powell, Robinson, Flanagan, Madden, Brisley.

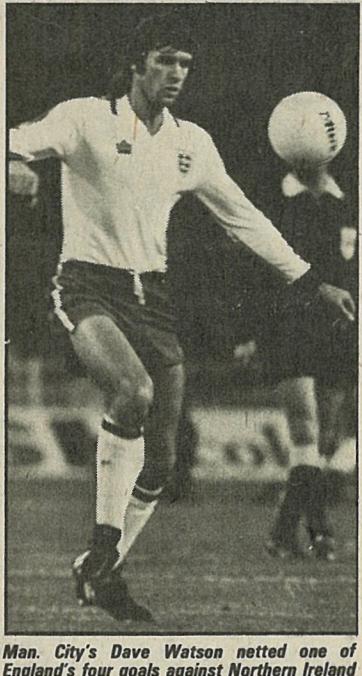
Blackburn: Butcher, Fowler, Bailey, Metcalfe, Round, Fazackerley, Brotherston, Garner, Craig, Parkes, Birchenall.

C. PALACE (0) 1 (Walsh)

STOKE (0) 1 (Irvine)

Palace: Burridge; Hinshelwood, Sansom, Kember, Cannon, Gilbert, Nicholas, Murphy, Swindlehurst, Fenwick, Walsh.

Stoke: Jones; Dodd, Scott, Kendall, Smith, Doyle, Randall, Irvine, O'Callaghan (Busby), Crooks, Richardson.



Man. City's Dave Watson netted one of England's four goals against Northern Ireland at Wembley in the European Championship.

FULHAM (1) 1 (Davies)

OLDHAM (0) 0

Fulham: Peyton; Evans, Strong, Bullivant, Money, Lock, Davies, Beck, Guthrie, Margerison, Marinello.

Oldham: McDonnell; Wood, Holt (Keegan), Bell, Hicks, Hurst, Valentine, Halom, Young, Chapman, Blair.

LEICESTER (3) 5 (Smith, Buchanan, May, Williams, Goodwin)

ORIENT (2) 3 (Kitchen, Chiedozie 2)

Leicester: Wallington; Whitworth, Rose, May, O'Neill, Williams, Peake, Goodwin, Smith, Henderson (Christie), Buchanan.

Orient: Jackson; Fisher, Roffey, Hughton, Gray, Went, Chiedozie, Moores, Mayo, Kitchen, Coates.

LUTON (1) 1 (Turner)

SHEFF. UTD. (0) 1 (Hamson pen.)

Luton: Findlay; Stephens, Aizlewood, Donaghy, Turner, Price, West, Hill, Stein, Hatton, Moss (Taylor).

Sheff. U: Conroy; Calvert, Speight, Kenworthy (Smith), McPhail, Matthews, Anderson, Franks, Stainrod, Sabella, Hamson.

PRESTON (0) 1 (Bruce)

BRIGHTON (0) 0

Preston: Tunks; Taylor, Cameron, Burns, Baxter, O'Riordan, Coleman, Haslegrave, Robinson, Potts, Bruce.

Brighton: Steele; Cattlin, Williams, Horton, Rollings, Lawrenson, Ryan (Clark), Poskett, Maybank, Sayer, O'Sullivan.

WEST HAM (1) 3 (Cross 2, Robson)

SUNDERLAND (2) 3 (Lee, Rostron 2)

West Ham: Day; McDowell, Brush, Curbishley, Taylor (T), Bonds, Holland, Devonshire, Cross, Brooking, Robson (Jennings).

Sunderland: Siddall; Henderson, Gilbert, Arrott, Clarke, Elliott, Chisholm, Rostron, Entwistle, Lee, Rowell.

Postponed: Burnley v. Millwall; Cardiff v. Wrexham; Newcastle v. Notts Co.

THIRD DIVISION

BLACKPOOL (1) 2 (Spence 2)

COLCHESTER (0) 1 (Allinson)

Blackpool: Hesford; Malone, Pashley, Wilson, Suddaby, McEwan, Kellow, Ronson, Spence, Davidson, Wagstaffe (Jones).

Colchester: Walker; Cook, Wright, Hodge, Wignall, Dowman, Bunkell, Lee, Packer, Allinson, Dyer.

BRENTFORD (0) 1 (Charlton)

SWANSEA (0) 0

Brentford: Bond; Salman, Tucker, McNichol, Kruse, Graham (J), Shrub, Carlton, Smith, McCulloch, Phillips.

Swansea: Cradginton; Evans, Bartley, Smith, Toshack, Phillips, Charles (Stevenson), James, Curtis, Waddle, Callaghan.

CARLISLE (1) 1 (Bonnyman)
MANSFIELD (0) 0 4,934
Carlisle: Swinburn; Hoolickin, McCutney, McDonald, Tait, Parker, McVitie, Bonnyman, Ludlam, Kemp, Hamilton.
Mansfield: Arnold; Dawkins, Wood, Curtis, Saxby, McClelland, Hamilton, Martin (Goodwin), Syrett, Allen, Bird.

CHESTER (1) 1 (Henderson)
BURY (0) 1 (Stanton) 3,160
Chester: Lloyd; Nickeas, Walker, Storton, Jeffries, Oakes, Sutcliffe (Mellor), Livermore, Edwards, Henderson, Phillips.
Bury: Forrest; Ritson, Kennedy, Lugg, Hatton, Whitehead, Stanton, Wilson, Beamish, Gregory, Taylor.

EXETER (0) 1 (Pearson)
PETERBOROUGH (0) 0 3,844
Exeter: O'Keefe; Templeman, Hore, Randell, Giles, Roberts, Neville, Pearson, Sims, Delve, Hatch.
Peterborough: Waugh; Hindley, Styles, Doyle, Green, Ross, Carmichael, McEwan, Buttlin, Cooke, Holman (Robson).

OXFORD (0) 1 (Dobson o.g.)
HULL (0) 0 3,420
Oxford: Burton; McIntosh, Fogg, Briggs, Bodel, Taylor, Graydon, Duncan, Foley, Seacole (Berry), Hodgson.
Hull: Blackburn; Nesbit, DeVries, Hawker, Dobson, Haigh, Warboys, Lord, Edwards, Banister, Galvin.

ROTHERHAM (0) 1 (Gwyther)
PLYMOUTH (0) 0 5,237
Rotherham: McAllister; Forrest, Breckin, Stancilffe, Green, Flynn, Dawson, Phillips, Gwyther, Crawford, Smith.
Plymouth: Hodge; Uzzell, McNeill, Bason, Foster, Clarke, Megson, Harrison, Binney, Trustson, Rogers.

TRANMERE (1) 1 (Evans)
WATFORD (1) 1 (Blissett pen.) 4,219
Tranmere: Johnson; Mathias, Flood, Parry, Postlewhite, Evans, Palios, Bramhall (Kerr), Moore, Craven, McAuley.
Watford: Sherwood; Stirk, Harrison, Joslyn, Sims, Garner, Pollard, Blissett, Jenkins, Train, Downes.

Postponed: Chesterfield v Gillingham; Sheff. Wed v Swindon; Walsall v Lincoln.

FOURTH DIVISION

CREWE (1) 1 (Warnock)
HALIFAX (0) 0 1,594
Crewe: Caswell; Purdie, Dulson, Nicholls, Bowles, Bevan, Davies, Warnock (Wilkinson), Nelson, Roberts, Robertson.
Halifax: Leonard; Bradley, Dunleavy, Smith, Burke, Sidebottom, Firth, Kennedy, Mountford, Loska, Stafford (Johnson).

DONCASTER (0) 2 (Bradley, Snodin) 1,922
Doncaster: Peacock; Olney, Snodin, Pugh, Bradley, Lally, Laidlaw, Meagan, French, Bentley, Owen.

Northampton: Jayes; Walker, Mead, Bryant, Robertson, Geidmanitis, Farrington, Williams, Foggatt, Reilly, McCaffrey.

HARTEPOOL (1) 3 (Newton 2, Houchen)
TORQUAY (2) 2 (Coffill, Johnson) 2,376
Hartlepool: Richardson; Smith (G), Gorry, Horgan, Brooks, Smith (T), Linacre, Houchen, Crumplin, Newton, Loadwick.
Torquay: Turner; Darke, Parsons, Twitchin, Boulton, Dunne, Wilson, Lawrence, Coffill (Davies), Cooper, Johnson.

PORTRSMOUTH (0) 1 (Foster)
BOURNEMOUTH (0) 1 (Johnson) 12,172

Portsmouth: Mellor; Ellis, Viney, Barnard, Foster, Davey, Hemmerman, Lathan, Showers, McIlwraith (Dener), Pular.

Bournemouth: Allen; Cunningham, Miller, Impey, Brown (R), Barton, Borthwick, MacDougall, Scott, Brown (K) (Massey), Johnson.

READING (1) 1 (Bennett)
BARNESLEY (0) 0 6,604
Reading: Death; Peters, White, Bowman, Hicks, Bennett, Earls, Hetzke, Kearney, Lewis, Wanklyn (Sanchez).

Barnsley: Springett; Collins, Chambers, Little, Saunders, McCarthy, Riley (Mallender), Clarke, Graham, Millar, Bell.

Postponed: Bradford v Wimbleton; Darlington v Aldershot; Huddersfield v Stockport; Port Vale v Hereford; Rochdale v Grimsby; Scunthorpe v Wigan; York v Newport.

SCOTTISH PREMIER

HEARTS (1) 1 (Gibson)
ST. MIRRREN (0) 2 (Fitzpatrick, Bone) 8,000

Hearts: Dunlop; Kidd, Brown, McNicoll, Jefries, Craig, Gibson, Fraser, O'Connor, Busby, Robertson.

St. Mirren: Thomson; Beckett, Munro, Fitzpatrick, Dunlop, Copland, Richardson, Stark, Bone, Torrance, McGarvey.

MOTHERWELL (0) 0
HIBS (1) 3 (Bremner, Callaghan, MacLeod) 5,101

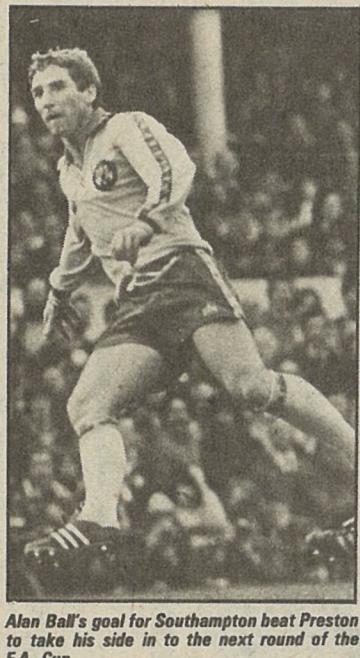
Motherwell: Rennie; Boyd, Wark, Smith, McVie, Stevens (McLeod), Millar, Pettigrew, Clinging, Lindsay (Capaldi), Leonard.

Hibs: McArthur; Brazil, Duncan, Bremner, Stewart, McNamara, Murray, MacLeod, Hutchinson, Callaghan, Lambie (O'Brien).

RANGERS (0) 1 (Robertson)
DUNDEE UTD (0) 0 29,000

Rangers: McCloy; Jardine, Dawson, Forsyth, Jackson, MacDonald, McLean, Russell, Johnstone, Watson (Robertson), Cooper (Smith).

Dundee U: McAlpine; Stewart, Stark, Phillip (Kopel), Hegarty, Narey, Dodds, Sturrock, Fleming, Kirkwood, Holt.



Alan Ball's goal for Southampton beat Preston to take his side in to the next round of the F.A. Cup.

Postponed: Aberdeen v Celtic; Morton v Partick.

MONDAY, FEB. 12

F.A. CUP

Fourth Round

PRESTON (0) 0

SOUTHAMPTON (1) 1 (Ball) 20,727

Preston: Tunks; Taylor, Cameron, Burns, Baxter, O'Riordan, Coleman, Haslegrave, Robinson, Potts (Doyle).

Southampton: Gennoe; Golac, Peach, Williams, Nicholl, Waldron, Ball, Boyer, Heberd, Holmes, Curran.

TOTTENHAM (2) 3 (Roberts o.g., Hoddle, Jones) 27,120

Tottenham: Kendall; Naylor, Holmes, Hoddie, Lacy, Perryman, Pratt, Gorman, Armstrong (Jones), Lee, Taylor.

Wrexham: Davies; Sutton, Cegielski, Davis, Roberts, Giles, Shinton, Cartwright, McNeil, Lyons, Fox.

Postponed: Burnley v. Sunderland; Leeds v. WBA; Oldham v. Leicester.

Replay

MAN. UTD. (0) 1 (Greenhoff, J.)

FULHAM (0) 0 41,020

Man. U: Bailey; Greenhoff (B), Albiton, McIlroy, McQueen, Buchan, Coppel, Greenhoff (J), Ritchie, Macari, Thomas.

Fulham: Peyton; Evans, Strong, Bullivant, Money, Lock, Davies (Margarrison), Beck, Guthrie, Gale, Marinello.

Third Division postponed: Mansfield v. Oxford.

SCOTTISH CUP

Third Round

AYR (0) 4 (McLaughlin 2, McLelland, Phillips) 4,000

Ayr: Sproat; Wells, Kelly (McColl), Fleeting, McAllister, McSherry, Phillips, McLaughlin, McLelland, Crandom, Christie.

Q of S: Clark (D); McChesney, Cloy, Clark (N), Boyd (Mitchell), Ferrie, Dempster, Pollock (Dickson), Bryce, Coughlin, Holley.

RANGERS (1) 3 (Johnstone, Jackson, Cooper)

MOTHERWELL (0) 1 (Clinging) 17,000

Rangers: McCloy; Jardine, Dawson, Forsyth, Jackson, MacDonald, McLean, Russell, Johnstone, Watson, Cooper.

Motherwell: Rennie; Boyd, Wark, Smith, McVie, Stevens, Millar, Pettigrew, Larnach, Clinging, Wilson.

Postponed: Dumbarton v Alloa; Dundee U v St Mirren; Morton v St Johnstone; Stirling v Partick.

Replays

HIBS (0) 2 (McLeod, Callaghan)

DUNFERMLINE (0) 0 5,000

Hibs: McArthur; Brazil, Duncan, Bremner, Stewart, McNamara, Murray, McLeod, Hutchinson, Callaghan, Lambie.

Dunfermline: Whyte; Scott (Borthwick), Mercer, Thomson, Salton, Hunter, Mullin, McLaren, Robertson, Leonard, Docherty, Hegarty.

QUEEN'S PARK (0) 0

CLYDEBANK (0) 1 (McCormack) 828

Queen's Park: Aitken; McSkimming, Dixon, Wylie, Bowie, McAloon, Wood, Reynolds, Ballantyne, Sinclair, Wilkie.

Clydebank: Gallacher; Hall, Abel, Fallon, Fanning, Houston, McDougal, McCormack, Miller, Brown, Colgan (Ross)

TUESDAY, FEB. 13

FIRST DIVISION

LIVERPOOL (1) 1 (Souness)

BIRMINGHAM (0) 0

Liverpool: Clemence; Neal, Hughes, Kennedy (A), Kennedy (R), Hansen, Dalglish, Highway, Fairclough, McDermott, Souness.

Birmingham: Freeman; Page, Dennis, Towers, Gallagher, Tarantini, Darke (Givens), Ainscow, Bertschin, Buckley, Dillon.

Q.P.R. (0) 1 (Shanks)

ARSENAL (0) 2 (Price, Brady) 21,125

Q.P.R.: Parkes; Clément, Gillard, Hollins, Roeder, Shanks, Francis, Hamilton, Bowles, Goddard.

Arsenal: Jennings; Rice, Nelson, Talbot, O'Leary, Young (Walford), Brady, Sunderland, Stapleton, Price, Rix.

THIRD DIVISION

CARLISLE (0) 1 (Bonnyman pen.)

BURY (1) 2 (Hatton, Wilson) 4,547

Carlisle: Swinburne; Hoolickin, Collins, McDonald, Tait, Parker, McVitie, Bonnyman, Ludlam, Kemp, Hamilton.

Bury: Forrest; Ritson, Kennedy, Lugg, Tucker, Hatton, Stanton, Wilson, Beamish, Gregory, Taylor.

SOUTHEND (1) 2 (Laverick, Dudley)

SHEFF. WED. (0) 1 (Wyld) 4,559

Southend: Cawston; Stead, Yates, Cusack, Hadley, Moody, Morris, Pountney, Parker, Dudley, Laverick.

Sheff. W: Turner: Shirtliff, Rushbury, Grant, Mullen, Johnson, Wyld, Porterfield, Fleming (Nimmo), Lowry, Hornsby.

Postponed: Shrewsbury v. Exeter; Walsall v. Lincoln.

FOURTH DIVISION

CREWE (1) 2 (Davies, Bowles)

DONCASTER (2) 4 (Laidlaw, Owen 2, Pugh) 1,532

Crewe: Caswell; Wilkinson, Dulson, Nicholls, Bowles, Bevan, Davies, Roberts (Coyne), Nelson, Purdie, Robertson.

Doncaster: Peacock; Olney, Snodin, Meagan, Bradley, Lally, Laidlaw, Owen, French (Habbin), Bentley, Pugh.

Postponed: Barnsley v. Grimsby; Bournemouth v. Northampton; Halifax v. Scunthorpe; York v. Port Vale.

SCOTTISH CUP

Third Round

Postponed: Dundee U v. St Mirren; Dumbarston v. Alloa; Morton v. St Johnstone; Stirling v. Partick.

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 14

FOURTH DIVISION

TORQUAY (1) 1 (Cooper)

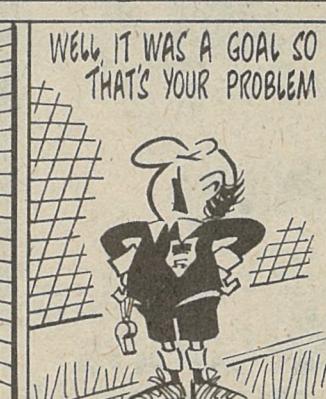
BRADFORD C (0) 2 (Wood, Robertson) 1,912

Torquay: Turner; Darke, Payne, Twitchin, Green, Dunne, Wilson, Lawrence (Murphy), Cooper, Davies, Johnson.

Bradford C: Downsborough; Podd, Watson, Reaney (Johnson), Baines, Wood, Robertson, Dolan, Cook, McNiven, Hutchins.

CONTINUED NEXT WEEK.
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DUNDEE Home	S/Boys	Boys	Youths	S/Mens	Large
EINTRACHT Home	S/Boys	Boys	Youths	S/Mens	Large
EINTRACHT Away	S/Boys	Boys	Youths	S/Mens	Large
BAHRAIN	S/Boys	Boys	Youths	S/Mens	Large
LEEDS Home			Youths	S/Mens	Large
LEEDS Away			Youths	S/Mens	Large
WALES Home	S/Boys	Boys	Youths	S/Mens	Large
SAUDI ARABIA	S/Boys	Boys	Youths	S/Mens	Large
SHEFFIELD Home	S/Boys	Boys	Youths	S/Mens	Large
LEICESTER Home	S/Boys	Boys	Youths	S/Mens	Large
LEICESTER Away			Youths	S/Mens	Large
CRYSTAL PALACE Away			Youths	S/Mens	Large
ENGLAND Home			Youths	S/Mens	Large
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FOCUS ON



BOBBY McDONALD Coventry City

FULL NAME: Robert Wood McDonald

BIRTHPLACE: Aberdeen

BIRTHDATE: 30th April, 1955

HEIGHT: 5ft 9½ins

WEIGHT: 12st

PREVIOUS CLUB: Aston Villa

MARRIED: To Sue

CHILDREN: First child was due March 1st

CAR: Datsun

FAVOURITE PLAYER: John Findlay, Luton Town goalkeeper

FAVOURITE OTHER TEAM: Jumbo's XI, the team I use to manage

MOST DIFFICULT OPPONENT: The taxman

MOST MEMORABLE MATCH: Playing in the 1975 League Cup Final, while with Aston Villa

BIGGEST THRILL: Scoring the occasional goal

BIGGEST DISAPPOINTMENT: None that spring to mind

BEST COUNTRY VISITED: West Indies

MISCELLANEOUS LIKES: My dog, playing golf and getting a suntan

MISCELLANEOUS DISLIKES: Waiting in queues and getting up early

FAVOURITE T.V. SHOWS: Vegas, The Good Life and Mastermind

FAVOURITE SINGERS: The Who, Robert Palmer and Village People

FAVOURITE ACTORS: Peter Sellers and Charles Bronson

BEST FRIEND: I have some very good friends

BIGGEST INFLUENCE ON CAREER: Frank Upton formerly of Chelsea

BIGGEST DRAG IN SOCCER: Games that are

postponed due to bad weather

INTERNATIONAL HONOURS: Scottish Youth caps

PERSONAL AMBITION: To be a millionaire

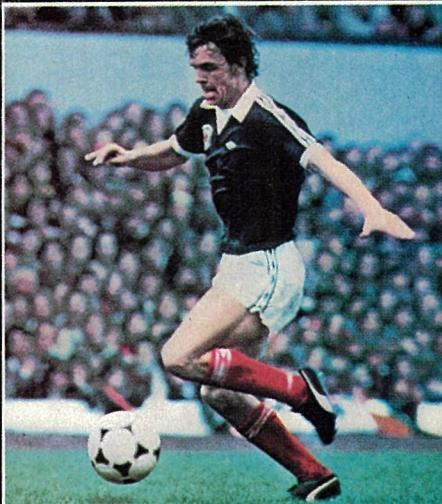
PROFESSIONAL AMBITION: To play for Scotland at full level

IF YOU WEREN'T A FOOTBALLER, WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'D BE? A dentist

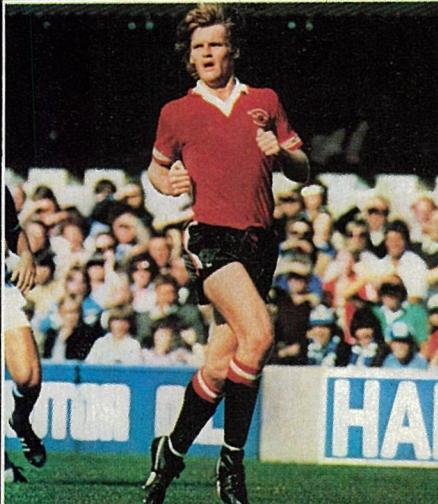
WHICH PERSON IN THE WORLD WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO MEET? Actor David Niven

SHOOT!

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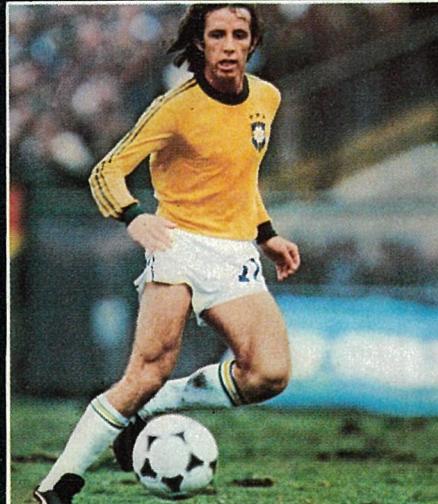
3 Mario Kempes



7 Sammy McIlroy



8 Giancarlo Antonioni



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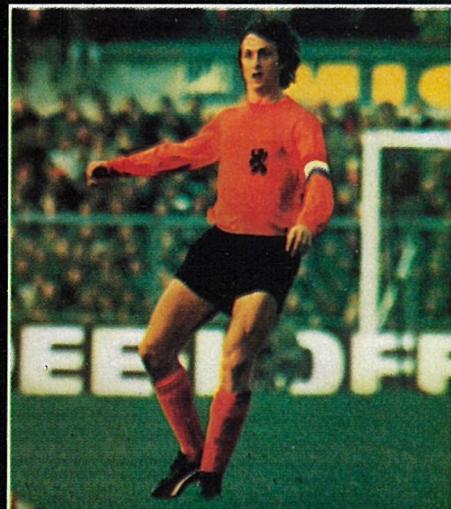
4 Peter Shilton



5 Leopoldo Luque



10 Hans Krankl



6 Johan Cruyff

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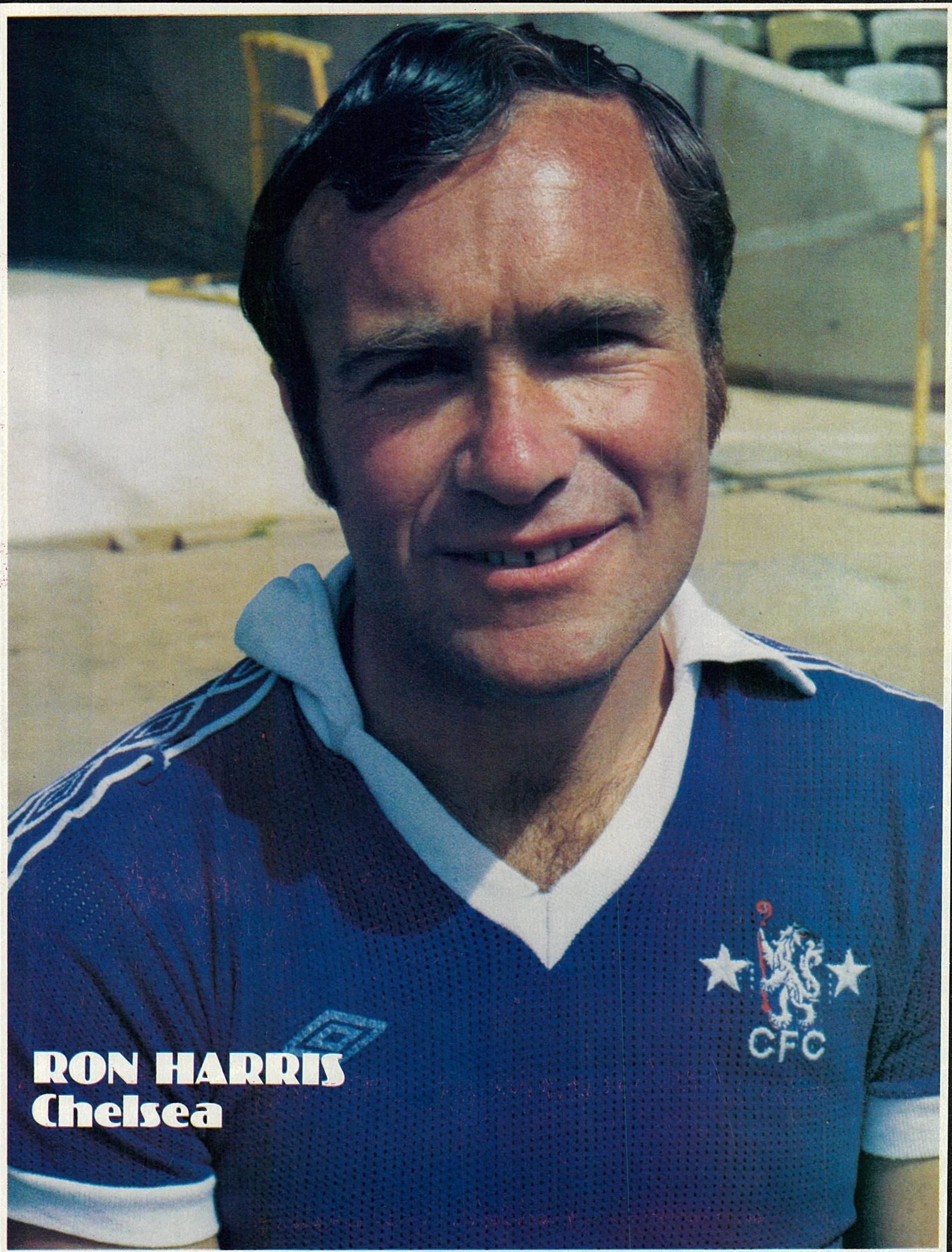
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SHOOT!

LIKE every ambitious young player, Gary Rowell is desperate to show off his talents in the First Division.

But he's not really interested in going into Division One unless he's wearing the red-and-white stripes of Sunderland.

His father Jack played for Sunderland reserves and as a youngster, Gary used to stand on the Roker Park terraces marvelling at the skill of Colin Todd.

So you can imagine how he felt when it was Newcastle who invited him along for training as a schoolboy.

"I was very grateful to them, but I don't think I could have signed at St. James' Park. I was just praying Sunderland would come in for me when I left school."

Fortunately, they did — and Rowell is way out in front as their top scorer this season, as they bid to regain their Division One spot.

He reckons Sunderland must be in with a great chance of going up now. "We didn't start off well, but we've really been finding our top form lately.

"It's so close in the Second Division this season that it's difficult to say who will go up. I rate Crystal Palace and if I had to pick one side for promotion, it would be them."

Rowell played 30 First Division games in 1976-77, but couldn't prevent his team sliding into Division Two.

"I know from that experience the First Division is the only place to play and I can't wait to get back there."

Wolves were ready to give him the chance a few months ago when they offered the Roker club a big fee for the youngster.

"I really don't want to think about leaving Sunderland. They're the only side I ever wanted to play for."

Gary Rowell's burning ambition: 'THE FIRST DIVISION—BUT ONLY WITH SUNDERLAND'

Not that he rates himself as a goalscorer. "I still can't see myself as a striker. I like knocking them in, but I enjoy being involved in the build-ups as well.

"My Dad was an old-fashioned wing-half and that's the sort of role I first adopted, defensive midfield.

"Last season, I switched to the left side of midfield and scored 19 goals. Jimmy Adamson, our manager then obviously felt I could do better further upfield, so after half a dozen games this season, he moved me up to just behind the strikers."

For someone who doesn't regard himself as a goalscorer, Rowell doesn't miss any opportunity of hitting the back of the net. When Jackie Ashurst missed a couple of penalties last season, the youngster volunteered to take over the job. He has proved a deadly spot-kick expert since.

"I'm not the kind of person who gets nervous in that situation, so I suppose I'm ideal for the job. Even when I took one against Everton in this season's F.A. Cup, I didn't have any nerves."

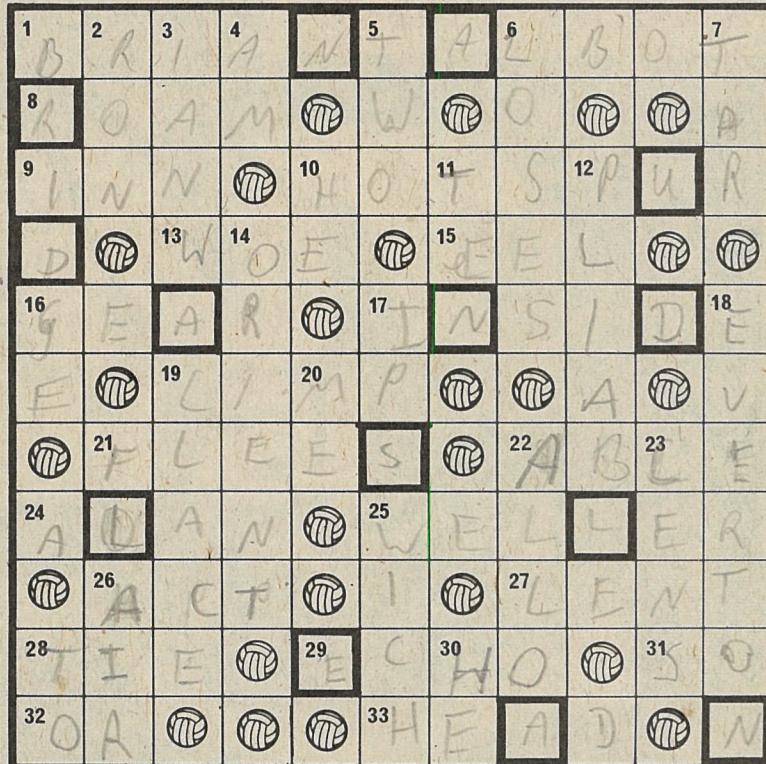
Rowell, 20, was called up for England Under-21's match against Wales in February. But he had to pull out because Sunderland were due to play a Cup-tie at Burnley the same night. Ironically, that game was called off.

"I felt more sorry for Shaun Elliott, who was also in the squad. He's been in fabulous form this season."



Go for the Double

After solving the clues in this specially compiled crossword, you can use the letters in the thick-edged squares to form the name of an Arsenal striker. Answers on page 46.



ACROSS:

- (1) Arsenal midfield player. (5 & 6)
- (8) Peter C----ck (Bristol City). "Wander" from the omissions.
- (9) Tom F---ey, "Footballer of the Year" 1953/54 and 1956/57.
- (10) Second-half of the team from White Hart Lane.
- (13) Gay M-ad-- (Shrewsbury Town). The omissions reversed.
- (15) Kevin K---an of Norwich City.
- (16) Ed---ley P--k, Stockport County's ground.
- (17) In soccer terms: "nearer the centre".
- (19) Walk with difficulty — perhaps through an injury.
- (21) -i-b-rt -tr-et (Leicester City). Runs away from the missing letters.
- (22) Fit and talented.
- (24) — Brazil, Ipswich Town striker.
- (25) Keith —, former Leicester City midfield player.
- (26) A performance in the practice game!
- (27) Take four letters from -e-ds U-i-ed to grant temporary use of.
- (28) Descriptive of a special or Cup match, for instance.
- (29) Voice effect as in an empty stand.
- (31) David Cr--s, West Ham United striker, the omissions reversed.
- (32) Tennis B--ussia; West German League club.
- (33) Many goals are scored through the use of it.

DOWN:

- (1) Stamford —, Chelsea's ground.
- (2) — Futcher, Manchester City striker.
- (3) Coventry City striker. (3 & 7)
- (4) Stath--. Complete the surname of a W.B.A. player.
- (5) Number of teams in the Scottish Premier Division that start with the letter "H".
- (6) Gets defeated!
- (7) S---k's Park; home of Raith Rovers.
- (10) Derek -al-s, Charlton striker.
- (11) The number of F.A. Cup Finals in which W.B.A. have participated.
- (12) Supple or easily bent.
- (14) The team from Brisbane Road.
- (17) Current F.A. Cup holders.
- (18) For whom Dixie Dean scored his record 60 goals in season 1927/28.
- (20) R-i-s (French League club). The omissions reversed.
- (21) Selective instinct for playing well.
- (22) Scottish club from Recreation Park.
- (23) D--i. -aw (European Footballer of the Year, 1964). French League club formed from the missing letters.
- (28) Tony --wers of Birmingham City.
- (30) Bog--ad Park, Dumbarton.



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Not the header that raged past Derek's own goalkeeper. Here, he challenges Dundee United's Hamish McAlpine with Paul Hegarty covering. Present Rangers manager John Greig (right).



'Unfair to name my best boss'

WHO is the best manager you have served under? That is a question that has been fired at me on many occasions and I shudder each time I am put on the spot.

I believe it is an extremely difficult question to answer with any degree of accuracy. Let's face it, one manager may dwell on tactics and make them all-important, while another may talk simply of motivation and build up of fitness.

I have served under three bosses at Rangers — Willie Waddell, Jock Wallace and now, of course, John Greig. And on the Scotland scene I have been selected to represent my country by Willie Ormond and Ally MacLeod, while present boss Jock Stein included me in his recent squad for the match against Belgium, which was unfortunately postponed.

All of these managers have proved their ability one way or another and I do not think it is fair for me to single out one as the best.

Having got that burden off my shoulders I should like to study the contributions these managers have made.

It was Willie Waddell, now vice-chairman at Ibrox, who gave me my big team chance eight seasons ago. I'll never forget the day he told me

in his office I would be playing the following afternoon. I was so excited and I suppose it was understandable when you consider we were due to play Celtic in the League Cup Final at Hampden!

It's history now. I scored the only goal of the game and I would like to think I repaid Mr. Waddell for his faith in selecting me in the first place.

While I'm on the subject I would like to point out the game against Celtic was not my debut for the first team and neither was it my first goal.

Contrary to what a lot of people think I had already played in the side that same season against Cowdenbeath and managed to score a hat-trick. I thought I might just mention it.

Of course, when Mr. Waddell moved upstairs after our European Cup-Winners' Cup success in 1972 Jock Wallace took over and guided us to two domestic hat-tricks of titles.

I was in Argentina with the Scottish World Cup squad in the Summer when I heard the news that he had quit Rangers to take over as boss of Leicester City.

The Scottish boys are a great bunch of jokers and I honestly thought someone was pulling my leg. I did not believe it at first, but after it was

confirmed my immediate thought was who would take over.

One name came to mind right away . . . John Greig. The man simply deserved the job and when the news filtered through he had, in fact, been appointed team boss, I was absolutely overjoyed.

I can't praise John Greig highly enough. I am not just saying that because he is my gaffer but the man is dedicated to Rangers and already you can see his influence on the team. I feel we are building up attacks better now and Mr. Greig leaves you in no doubt what he expects you to do.

Jock Wallace was a marvellous motivator and he expected you to die for your club. I'm sure the Leicester City boys are now finding that out for themselves!

On the international front Willie Ormond and Ally MacLeod have little in common. Ormond stayed out of the limelight and made few predictions while, of course, Ally MacLeod was the complete opposite.

I remember playing a game against Brazil at Hampden in the Summer about six years ago when Mr. Ormond played me as a double centre-half alongside Jim Holton.

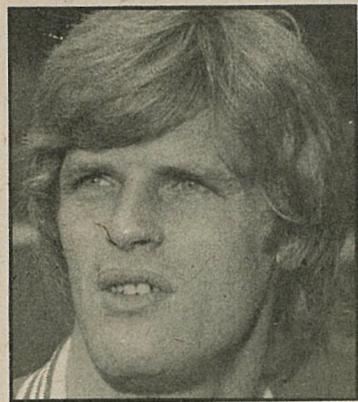
I was determined to do well but unfortunately I managed to score the

Tartan Talk DEREK JOHNSTONE

TARTAN TALK FROM
CELTIC'S DANNY
McGRAIN NEXT WEEK

'A GRAVEYARD FOR THE TOP TEAMS'

my soccer world
**GORDON
MCQUEEN**



INSTEAD of playing Manchester United at The Dell this Saturday — Southampton have another date . . . the League Cup Final against Nottingham Forest.

As Saints fight it out at chilly Wembley I'll be in the sweltering heat of the Middle-East with United.

Rather than have a blank day, Dave Sexton arranged a friendly in Dubai.

As we won't return until Monday, I'll even miss highlights of England's big Wembley match on the box Sunday afternoon.

That upsets me because I've a feeling this will be a terrific tussle, although on paper it doesn't really inspire the imagination of neutrals like myself.

No disrespect to Forest and Southampton but few people outside those two areas will get very

excited about this one.

Wembley will miss the colour and character that fans of say, Liverpool, Everton or Manchester United would add to the game.

Although the League Cup Final is now staged at Wembley, with a place in the U.E.F.A. Cup as a special bonus for the winners, this competition is still — and probably always will be — a poor second to the F.A. Cup. I'm sure most players will agree.

The F.A. Cup is unique . . . it belongs to the whole nation. It's an occasion every fan wants to see. A day when the streets in most cities, towns and villages up and down the country are empty as millions sit almost strapped to their TV's.

League Cup Final day is for the two competing teams and their supporters.

I must admit winning this trophy is not one of my main ambitions. At Leeds, Don Revie never really took it seriously for a long while. He often used League Cup-ties to blood youngsters . . . try out new ideas.

Having said that, though, he was as pleased as anyone at Elland Road when the club won the Cup in 1968, or so I'm told. I wasn't with them at the time, of course.

But who do I think will win this year? Well, I must go for Forest to retain the trophy.

Mind you, Saints have a fine record in Cup competitions and have upset the form book before



That champagne feeling. Watford's Luther Blissett and Ross Jenkins celebrate League Cup victory. They helped knock United out of the competition this season.

... like in 1976 when they sensationally defeated overwhelming F.A. Cup favourites Manchester United in the Final.

Lawrie McMenemy, who has always impressed me as a man and manager, has certainly got Saints buzzing. He's not the sort to let Forest's reputation worry him.

He's developed a strong spirit at The Dell and pays a great deal of attention to detail. Just as Don Revie, his close friend, did at Leeds. In fact, Southampton is probably being run on similar lines.

Then there's Alan Ball and Chris Nicholl.

Ballie is playing as well as ever this season. His enthusiasm is highly-infectious. Team-mates try to impress him because a "well done" from the wee man means so much, especially to the youngsters.

And I bet he never dreamed he'd be going back to Wembley. He knows this could be his last chance of grabbing some more glory before he does give up the game here.

If I know Ballie he won't let that opportunity slip from his grasp without one hell of a fight.

Neither will Chris Nicholl, who has played in three League Cup Finals before ... all with Aston Villa.

If I were either Chris or Lawrie McMenemy I'd be a little concerned about the lack of punch in my forward-line.

Since Ted MacDougall left for Bournemouth earlier this season, they have missed an out-and-out striker.

Downfall

True, Phil Boyer is there and does a splendid job for Saints, but he's not an orthodox front-runner ... a target-man every successful side needs. This could be their downfall.

Like Southampton, Forest have spirit and work-rate. Players will run through brick walls for Brian Clough. They all want to impress him.

And there are so many top class players at the City Ground.

John Robertson is the best winger in Britain ... Peter Shilton is almost unbeatable ... Archie Gemmill has a heart the size of a football ... Viv Anderson a defender of immense power ... Tony Woodcock and Garry Birtles are forwards capable of turning a game and producing the winning touch.

Add their skills to the unselfish running and work-rate of John McGovern, Larry Lloyd, Dave Needham and Frank Clark and you have one heck of a side.

If Forest have a weakness it's possibly down the middle where Kenny Burns has missed several games through injury. But I can't think of any club that has exploited that flaw yet. Perhaps Saints will take advantage of Kenny's possible absence, but I doubt it.

Forest for the Cup, then, by two goals.

At least two First Division sides will be lining-up at Wembley. That seemed unlikely for a while as so many of the top clubs were knocked out in earlier rounds. This



Phil Boyer does a terrific job for Saints. But he lacks a partner up-front.

year's competition has been a real graveyard for First Division teams.

United played little Stockport County in the Second Round and were very fortunate to win.

County were leading with just three minutes to go when United upped and scored two lucky goals.

I won't forget that Cup-tie in a hurry ... I was sent-off!

United continued their poor form in the next round and were beaten by Watford.

Although we put them under a lot of pressure we never took our chances, and so have no complaints about the result.

This season wasn't my worst League Cup memory, though. That happened with Leeds a few years ago.

We were drawn away at Chester and took a full strength team to Sealand Road and got slaughtered 3-0.

I'm not joking, Chester gave one of the best teams in Europe a real hiding. Oh, well, at least I didn't get sent-off.

Just enough space left for me to wish both Saints and Forest all the best of luck for Saturday. May the best team win ... which must be Forest.

John MacLean

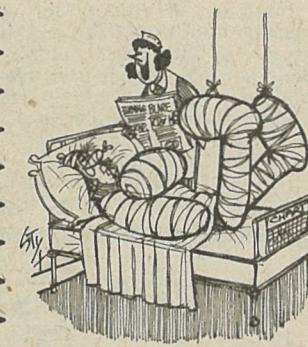
FOOTBALL FUNNIES



"I'm fed up with our new strip, boss — the other men get me down and play noughts and crosses"



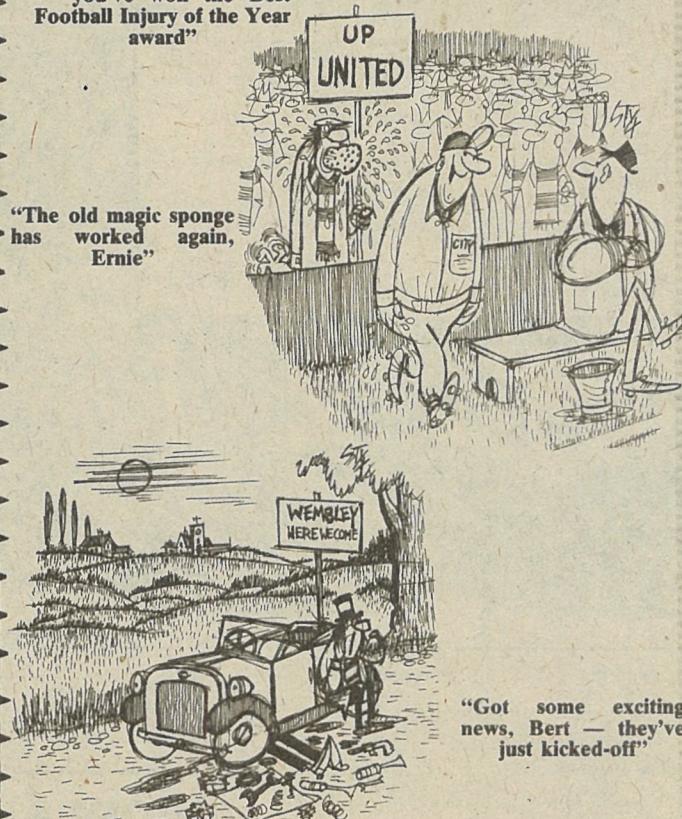
This week Dundee United's DEREK STARK selects the jokes specially drawn by our cartoonist Styx.



"Your name's in the paper — you've won the Best Football Injury of the Year award"



"Here comes his lot"



"Got some exciting news, Bert — they've just kicked-off!"

ABERDEEN LOOK FORWARD TO THE EIGHTIES

If there were prizes for ambition and progressive thinking Aberdeen would clearly receive their share of the plaudits.

As well as trying to put an attacking and enterprising team out on the park, The Dons are also planning to make Pittodrie the first all-seated and covered stadium in Britain.

Their ambitious scheme is well on its way to completion. They have spent over £500,000 already on ground improvements.

Their refreshing attitude was reflected by the fact that Alex Ferguson (right) was only too delighted when he was asked to take over from Billy McNeill as manager. He says: "Who wouldn't want to be part of this set-up? I've never enjoyed myself so much."

Action

"This board is different class. I have got a lot of ideas about how football should be played and at Pittodrie I am allowed to put them into action and get on with the game."

"You can't expect just to open the gates and let the fans pay their cash and walk in. You have got to sell the game to them. The way to

do that is to give them comfort and a team worthy of their support."

Aberdeen must be applauded for thinking big. They have backed up their words with cash; they have looked into the future and are certainly moving with the times.

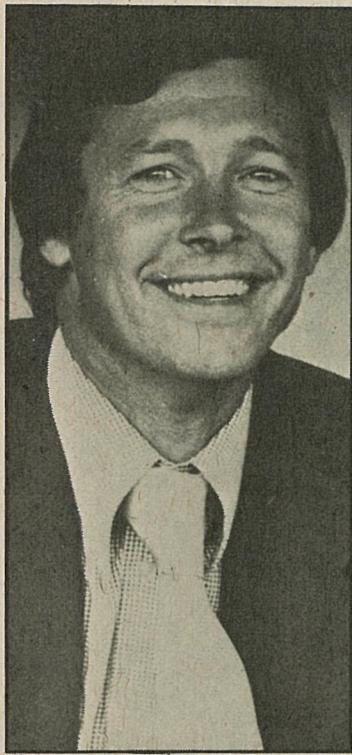
Of course there is little point in having a luxury stadium without an attractive side to entertain the fans.

Many critics thought Aberdeen should have had some sort of reward for their mighty efforts last season. They had to be content with second place in the Premier Division, finishing just one point behind Rangers.

They met the Ibrox side in the Final of the Scottish Cup and went into the match with the knowledge they had won four of their previous six games against Rangers.

However, Aberdeen, for some reason or another, froze on the big occasion. They just couldn't put their game together and eventually went down 2-1, but, in truth it could have been a landslide victory for Rangers who dominated the match for long spells.

The Dons took it on the chin, but they have no intention of staying



down for the count. They have come rebounding back getting over that disappointment and also the shock of losing their manager Billy McNeill and his assistant John Clark when both decided to return to Celtic.

Industrious

Now Alex Ferguson is firmly in charge with former Celtic and Hibs star Pat Stanton as his assistant. It's a well-balanced combination and The Dons are looking good these days.

They are producing some splendid soccer and have some gifted individuals in Willie Miller, the captain, Bobby Clark, the so-reliable goalkeeper, Stuart Kennedy, the swift, raiding right-back, Drew Jarvie, an industrious midfield player, and, of course, that exciting goal-snapping partnership of Joe Harper and Stevie Archibald.

There is also a whole clutch of young players coming through the ranks under the watchful guidance of Ferguson and Stanton.

Yes, there's no doubt Aberdeen are geared for the Eighties... they are going to have a head start on everyone when the crunch comes.

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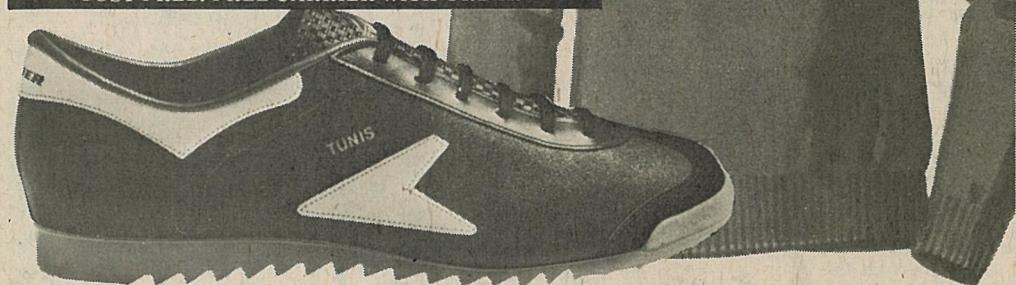
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AVAILABLE EX STOCK

THE GLOOMY PROSPECTS THAT FACE EDINBURGH'S ONCE-GREAT CLUBS

FANS in Edinburgh have had little to shout about as the big two of Hibernian and Hearts, struggle to recapture the glories they once enjoyed.

Once, a trip to the capital was feared by visiting teams. Easter Road and Tynecastle were two grounds where only the brave and the talented took maximum points.

No more. Both clubs are in the doldrums, and look like staying there for a long time.

Hearts fans have threatened to boycott the club in a desperate, determined bid to get a wind of change blowing through the corridors of Tynecastle. Hibs supporters now call their club a nursery for English clubs.

There is a general air of despair and disappointment coursing through the terraces over the attitudes of the Hibs and Hearts bosses.

When Hearts went down at home to St. Mirren this year, over 200 fans stayed behind long after the game to hurl abuse at the directors. Even before that match a printed leaflet was handed out to fans and the contents were shocking.

It read: "ATTENTION ALL HEARTS SUPPORTERS. After Hearts' next home game (regardless of result) we ask all true fans to join us behind the stand in an attempt to influence the board and management to stand down. If you want to see the once great Heart of Midlothian go part-time, do nothing! If you care about Hearts as much as we do let us have your



Hearts striker Des O'Connor fails to connect against Hibs this season.

from their club.

Hibs aren't out of the firing line, either. Their supporters are hardly the happiest bunch in Scotland. They have seen a team that might have won the League ravaged by transfers and Eddie Turnbull's men are no longer the gay cavaliers of Scottish soccer. Their football used to entrance and entertain, but, unfortunately, that is not the case today.

Turnbull, a knowledgeable,



Hibs' Ally MacLeod.

FOR HEARTS — PLAYERS ON PART-TIME

support."

At the bottom of the leaflet the words 'THE BOARD MUST GO' were printed in stark, bold letters.

Hearts, of course, are concerned about any possible boycott, for their gates are dwindling. They just cannot afford it and, if they are relegated at the end of the season, they could be forced into going part-time.

Fans who remember Hearts as a powerful outfit must shudder at that thought. Scottish soccer must also be concerned. For the game North of the border dearly needs a full-time challenge from the club and their neighbours Hibs.

The transfer of the extremely popular Eamonn Bannon, for a mere £200,000 to Chelsea, and the recent poor form has sparked off these drastic moves by Hearts fans, who claim they will not tolerate any more small-time thinking

deep-thinking manager, is playing to his side's strengths and when they are away from home they play it tight. The days when they attacked home and away seem a million light years ago.

Hibs have looked to Scandinavia for cheap imports to fill the gaps that have appeared when stars have moved on for big fees.

The Easter Road faithful sigh for the days when Alan Gordon and Jimmy O'Rourke terrorised defences with their brilliant striking partnership and took the League Cup to Edinburgh six years ago.

The special skills of Pat Stanton and John Blackley in defence have also gone as has popular, raiding right-back John Brownlie, now a team-mate of Blackley's at Newcastle.

Peter Marinello, now with Fulham, was a great favourite on

FOR HIBS — MORE STARS SOLD 'SOUTH'

the right-wing, but he, too, went when Arsenal offered £100,000 a decade ago and Alex Copley, the subtle, probing left-sided midfielder, also took the trip South when Arsenal came looking for fresh talent. Peter Cormack was another to go when Nottingham Forest took a fancy to his talents.

It's a tale of woe for Hibs fans. It cannot make for happy reading, but facts are facts and Hibs do seem to be only too willing to sell when the big money is flashed around.

Nottingham Forest's £1 million

signing of Birmingham's Trevor Francis must seem like a deal from another world, never mind just across the border so far as Hibs are concerned.

Turnbull, it must be said, has worked hard to bring good players to Easter Road for what might be termed as "realistic" fees. Ally MacLeod and Ralph Callaghan immediately come into that category, but there is little doubt Hibs have slumped out of the spotlight.

They were playing in Europe while Nottingham Forest were stuck in the English Second Division, but Forest's rapid progress and Hibs' rapid decline have meant a complete change in fortunes.

Perhaps it is unfair to judge Hibs with the English Champions, who

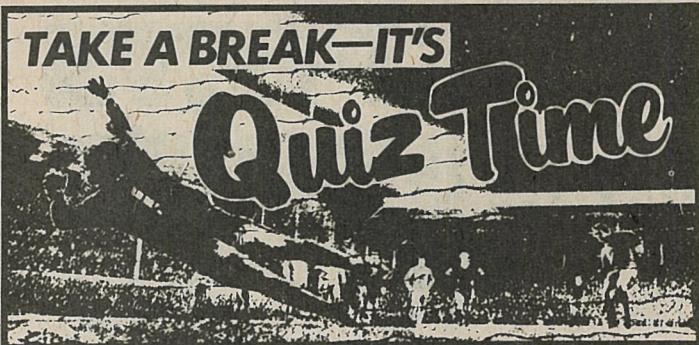
are, after all, playing in front of big crowds week in, week out. However, there was a day when Hibs wanted to be judged alongside the best in the world and not just Europe. That seems an awful long time ago.

So, Hibs and Hearts have their problems. No one can produce the magic wand they need so desperately to wave over Edinburgh and revitalise their present woeful situation.

A lot of hard work is needed to get them back on course. AND THAT WORK MUST START NOW!

TAKE A BREAK—IT'S

Quiz Time



1. Why did Brian Clough ban B.B.C. radio commentary for Nottingham Forest's European Cup Quarter-Final clash with Grasshoppers at the City Ground?

2. Which former England striker with a Southern League club wants to return to the Football League?

3. Leicester City's Second Division game against Fulham, scheduled for Wednesday, February 28th, was postponed for an unusual reason. Why?

4. Despite dropping out of the top three for the first time this season at the end of February, which former Crystal Palace manager predicted the Selhurst Park club would still be promoted to the First Division?

5. West Brom beat Leeds United 2-0 in an F.A. Cup Fourth Round replay at The Hawthorns. Was it the fifth, sixth or seventh time the two teams had met this season?

6. Can you identify the following First Division players by their nicknames? (a) Pancho, (b) Crazy Horse and (c) Supermac.

7. Did Tom Ritchie, Clive Whitehead (right) or Joe Royle finish overall top goalscorer for Bristol City last season?

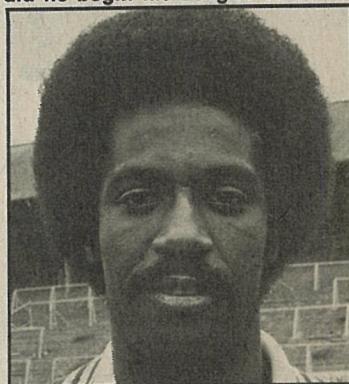
8. Which Second Division striker have Spurs been chasing for a long time?

9. Paul Went is in his second spell with Orient, where he began his League career. He has also played for Portsmouth, Charlton Athletic, Cardiff City and Fulham, but not in that order. Can you rearrange them correctly?

10. Which Scottish clubs play at (a) Annfield Park, (b) Shielfield Park, (c) Cappielow Park and (d) Rugby Park?

11. Bobby Charlton played 104, 105 or 106 times for England and scored 49, 50 or 51 goals?

12. Trevor Lee (below) is now playing at Colchester United but where did he begin his League career?



13. Queens Park Rangers slipped to third from bottom in the First Division following their 2-0 defeat by which club on February 28th?

14. True or false? Dundee manager Tommy Gemmell scored for Celtic against Inter-Milan in the 1967 European Cup Final in Lisbon.

15. Can you identify the player (below) who is playing consistently well for Northampton in the Fourth Division?

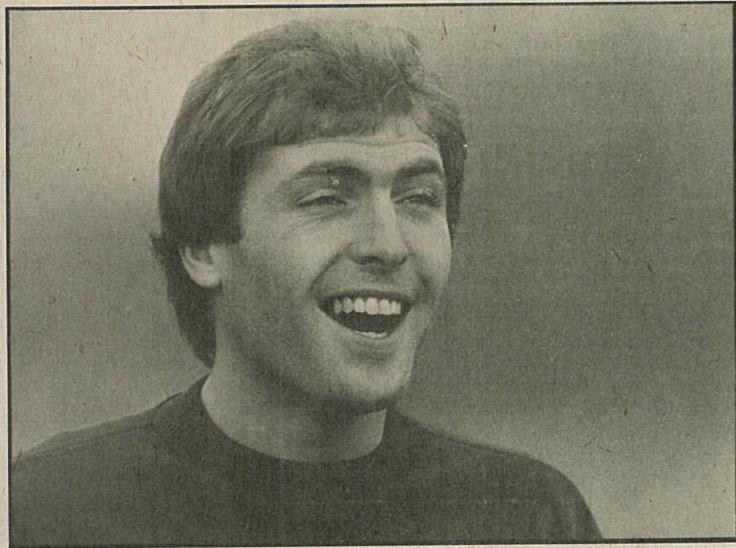
16. Blackburn Rovers full-back Kevin Hird moved to which First Division club for a transfer fee of £360,000?

17. Which Birmingham City midfield player decided to stay with the club after being available for transfer?

18. The England Youth side travelled to Rome for a European Youth Championship qualifying game and pulled off a surprising 1-0, 2-1 or 3-2 win against Italy?

19. Frans Thijssen made his League debut for Ipswich Town and helped his club to a 1-0 away win at Bristol City, Derby County or Leeds United?

20. Alan Cork starred for Wimbledon in their 6-1 win away at Torquay United. How many goals did he score?



ANSWERS:

1. Clough thought radio coverage would harm Forests' gate receipts. 2. Jimmy Greaves' 3 goals on the inflated balloon would take too long to clear. 3. Manchester City coach Malcolm Allison. 4. Manchester United. 5. Stevenage. 6. (a) Stuart Pearson. 7. Tom Ricketts. 8. Alan Birley of Cambridge. 9. Charlton Athletic. 10. (a) Stevenage. 11. (b) Stevenage. 12. (c) Stevenage. 13. (d) Stevenage. 14. (e) Stevenage. 15. (f) Stevenage. 16. (g) Stevenage. 17. (h) Stevenage. 18. (i) Stevenage. 19. (j) Stevenage. 20. (k) Stevenage. 21. (l) Stevenage. 22. (m) Stevenage. 23. (n) Stevenage. 24. (o) Stevenage. 25. (p) Stevenage. 26. (q) Stevenage. 27. (r) Stevenage. 28. (s) Stevenage. 29. (t) Stevenage. 30. (u) Stevenage. 31. (v) Stevenage. 32. (w) Stevenage. 33. (x) Stevenage. 34. (y) Stevenage. 35. (z) Stevenage. 36. (aa) Stevenage. 37. (bb) Stevenage. 38. (cc) Stevenage. 39. (dd) Stevenage. 40. (ee) Stevenage. 41. (ff) Stevenage. 42. (gg) Stevenage. 43. (hh) Stevenage. 44. (ii) Stevenage. 45. 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FRANK McGARVIE

HONOURS for St. Mirren have been few and far between. Formed 103 years ago in 1876 the "Buddies" as they are nicknamed began life as St. Mirren Rugby Club before taking their present title a year later.

Although their success has been limited, the club has spent most of its senior career in the top grade of Scottish football.

St. Mirren were founder members of the Scottish League when it was formed in 1890 and for the record they finished ninth.

In their third season they finished third and it is still their best ever position at the end of a season.

The club reached their first Scottish Cup Final in 1908, but it was not the happiest of events, St. Mirren being crushed by Celtic 5-1.

They say revenge is sweet and

CLUB SPOTLIGHT

ST. MIRREN

The day they made Hampden roar

the next time St. Mirren reached the Final they gained revenge by beating Celtic 2-0, that was in 1926 when the club also finished fourth in the Scottish League.

Never much in the headlines, St. Mirren played in their third Scottish Cup Final in 1934 when they met Rangers and had to play second fiddle as the Ibrox Park side easily won 5-0.

A season later, in 1934-35, St. Mirren lost their ever-present place in the Scottish First Division when they finished 19th and were relegated.

Although it only took St. Mirren one season to regain their place in the top grade when they finished runners-up.

With that little spurt of movement behind them, the Buddies went out of the news again until the 1958-59 season when they really hit the headlines by winning the Scottish Cup!

St. Mirren beat Aberdeen 3-1 in the Final at Hampden Park with their goals coming from Bryceland,

Miller and Baker.

The club had also reached the Final of the Scottish League Cup in the 1955-56 season when they lost to Aberdeen 2-1.

In 1962 the club reached their last Final in the Scottish Cup when they went down to Rangers 2-0.

The 1967-68 season saw St. Mirren again relegated to the Second Division after finishing 17th. But once again it took them only one season to climb straight back up again. This time they did it in style by winning the Second Division Championship.

St. Mirren, however, could survive only three seasons before being relegated again at the end of the 1970-71 term and this time had to wait until the 1976-77 season for promotion.

By then the Scottish League had been re-formed into the Premier, First and Second Divisions. So it was the Scottish First Division that St. Mirren won for their first taste of the exclusive top ten in Scottish football.



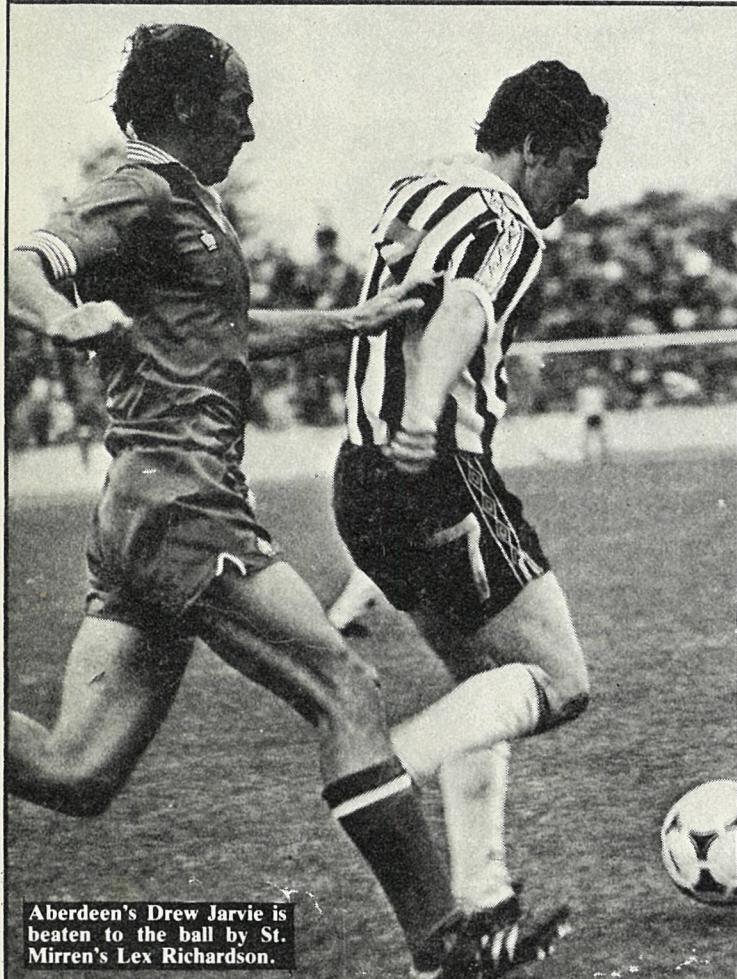
BILLY THOMSON

ST. MIRREN LEAD THE 'OLD FIRM'

IF THE supporters of St. Mirren Football Club cut out the League table of the Scottish Premier Division on Saturday, February 24th no one could blame them.

There, at the top of the table, was their club and below were the giants of Scottish football, including Rangers and Celtic, teams that had dominated the League for many seasons.

It could be that St. Mirren will be unable to maintain their challenge until the end of the season. However, their promise is proof that the club, under manager Jim Clunie, are proving a serious challenge to the big clubs, a fact underlined by St. Mirren's fine 2-0 away victory over Dundee United in the Scottish Cup recently.



Aberdeen's Drew Jarvie is beaten to the ball by St. Mirren's Lex Richardson.

PEN PICTURES

BILLY ABERCOMBIE: Midfielder signed from Schools football in 1976. Born Paisley. Ht. 5.9½. Wt. 11.

ALEX BECKETT: Consistent back-four player signed from Falkirk in 1974. Ht. 5.8. Wt. 10.7.

JIMMY BONE: Striker signed from Arbroath in 1978. Ht. 5.10. Wt. 11.2.

JACKIE COPLAND: Defender signed from Dundee United for £26,000 in 1976. Born Fife. Ht. 6.0. Wt. 12.0.

ANDY DUNLOP: Midfielder signed from Dalry Boys Club in 1975. Ht. 5.11. Wt. 11.2.

TONY FITZPATRICK: Midfielder and one of Scotland's finest prospects. Born Glasgow. Ht. 5.9. Wt. 11.2.

DEREK HYSLOP: Striker signed on a free transfer from Hibernian in 1975. Born Lanarkshire. Ht. 5.11. Wt. 11.2.

FRANK McGARVIE: Striker and top scorer for St. Mirren in recent seasons. Frank is much sought after by clubs in England. Born Kilsyth. Ht. 5.10. Wt. 10.7.

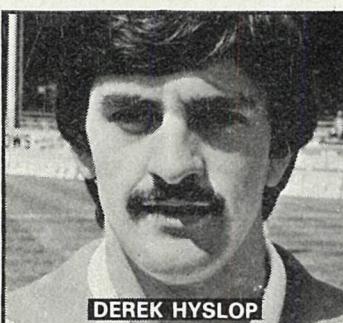
IAIN MUNRO: Defender or midfielder signed from Rangers in 1976. Born Lanark. Ht. 5.9½. Wt. 11.6.

BOBBY REID: Central defender signed from Kilwinning R in 1973. Born Ayrshire. Ht. 6.3. Wt. 13.0.

LEX RICHARDSON: Midfielder signed from Arthurle in 1976. Born Glasgow. Ht. 5.6. Wt. 11.8.

ROLL OF HONOUR

Division One Champions: 1976-77. Division Two Champions: 1967-68; Runners-up: 1935-36. Scottish Cup winners: 1926-1959. Finalists: 1908, 1934, 1962. Victory Cup: 1919-20. Scottish Summer Cup: 1943-44. League Cup: Finalists 1955-56.



DEREK HYSLOP

BILLY STARK: Striker signed from Anniesland Waverley in 1975. Born Glasgow. Ht. 6.1. Wt. 11.7.

BILLY THOMSON: Goalkeeper who cost £50,000 when signed from Partick Thistle in 1978. Ht. 6.1. Wt. 12.0.

BOBBY TORRANCE: Striker signed from Drumchapel Amateurs in 1976. Born Glasgow. Ht. 5.11. Wt. 12.7.

JOHN YOUNG: Defender signed from Falkirk in 1974. Born Edinburgh. Ht. 5.11. Wt. 12.2.

ST MIRRREN



BACK ROW (Left to right): Ian Munro, Mark Fulton, Andy Dunlop, Campbell Money, David Walker, John McEachran, Raymond Bell. MIDDLE ROW: Eddie McDonald (trainer), Ricky McFarlane (assistant manager), John Mowat, Ricky Sharp, Phil McAtee, Bobby Reid, Andy Stevenson (free transfer), Billy Stark, Jackie Copland, Robert Torrance, Dougie Bell, Jim Clunie (manager). FRONT ROW: Peter Weir, Alex Beckett, Derek Hyslop, Jim Bone, Tony Fitzpatrick, Billy Abercromby, Lex Richardson, John Young, Ronnie Pattison, Russell McAllister.